

Christopher J. “CJ” Frisina Senior Associate

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CJ's experience both in and challenging HHS gives him a deep understanding of the complex rules and regulations that health care providers encounter.

Christopher J. (“CJ”) Frisina is a senior associate in the Health Care Group and focuses his practice on health care fraud, waste, and abuse as well as compliance matters, including the Anti-Kickback Statute, the Stark Law, Civil Monetary Penalties, and the False Claims Act. CJ has advised a variety of health care providers and suppliers, including hospital systems, retail and specialty pharmacies, long-term care and senior living facilities, and clinical laboratories. He represents his clients in criminal, civil, and administrative investigations and routinely assists clients in responding to government inquiries, including from the Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the HHS Office of Inspector General, and the Office of Personnel Management.

Before joining Alston & Bird, CJ practiced at a boutique Washington, D.C. law firm focused on federal grant funding. This experience has allowed CJ to assist health care providers and suppliers with their receipt, use, and reporting of assistance received from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

CJ also served as a procurement analyst for the HHS Office of Recipient Integrity, focusing solely on suspension and debarment matters. *Super Lawyers* named CJ to its Rising Stars list for health care law for 2021-2022. He is certified in health care compliance (CHC) by the Health Care Compliance Association.

Representative Experience

- Representing health care providers and suppliers in operational and regulatory matters, including arrangements that implicate the Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Statute.
- Advising health care providers and suppliers on compliance with the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund (PRF) requirements.
- Representing health care providers and suppliers, including medical device manufacturers, who are targets of criminal investigations led by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).
- Assisting physician practice groups in setting up in-office laboratories compliance with the Stark Law.
- Conducting internal compliance investigations addressing potential False Claims Act violations.
- Drafting self-disclosures and advisory opinion requests to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG).
- Responding to government investigations and conducting internal investigations for skilled nursing facilities and other senior living providers on issues including documentation and coding, physician certifications, MDS requirements, laboratory testing (including COVID-19), and employment of excluded persons.
- Advising pharmaceutical manufacturers on promotional labeling practices and review.
- Representing health care entities and excluded providers before the HHS OIG Departmental Appeals Board (DAB) and in federal court.

Pro Bono Representation

- Appealed a provider's exclusion from federal health programs before an HHS administrative law judge, the DAB, and in federal court.
- Appealed a district court's denial of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.
- Appealed a district court's denial of a motion to exclude evidence, arguing that law enforcement stopped the defendant's vehicle without the reasonable articulable suspicion required by the Fourth Amendment.

Professional & Community Engagement

- American Bar Association, Public Contract Law Section, Grant Law Committee, vice chair (2020 – present)
- American Health Lawyers Association
- American University, Washington College of Law, Health Law and Policy Program, guest lecturer

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

Education

- American University (J.D., 2015)
- American University (M.P.P., 2015)
- Emmanuel Christian Seminary (M.A.R., 2011)
- Johnson University (B.A., 2008)

Admitted to Practice

- District of Columbia
- U.S. Supreme Court

Related Services

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