

Donna P. Bergeson

Senior Counsel

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Health care providers and suppliers rely on Donna to provide regulatory compliance counsel, governance advice, and litigation assistance during government and internal investigations. She uses her knowledge of health care coding and provider operations to arrive at practical and efficient resolutions of disputes, but will also aggressively litigate when common ground cannot be found.

Donna Bergeson is a health care lawyer and former leader of Alston & Bird's Health Care Group. She is a past leader of Alston & Bird's governing body, known as its Partners' Committee and also leads Alston & Bird's Investment Committee. Donna focuses her practice on regulatory compliance for academic medical facilities, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers. Donna made partner as a litigator at Alston & Bird and thereafter transitioned to a practice in health care to follow client demand.

Donna has been identified as a "Leading US Health Care Lawyer" by *Euromoney*, recognized in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2010 and listed in *Georgia Super Lawyers* since 2006. She became certified as a procedural coder in 2001 by the American Academy of Professional Coders to facilitate communication with coding and billing staff on compliance engagements and representations of health care providers defending government investigations.

Donna teaches health law as an adjunct faculty member of Emory University School of Law and is a past faculty member of the Atlanta College of Trial Advocacy. She frequently writes and speaks on compliance- and life sciences-related issues to legal and professional organizations across the country.

Representative Experience

- General counsel for The Emory Clinic, Inc., the physician practice plan for the Emory University School of Medicine, from 1994-2000.
- Interim chief counsel for the Woodruff Health Sciences Center of Emory University, including the Yerkes Primate Center at Emory University, and chief counsel for the subsidiary entities of Emory Healthcare, Inc. from 2000-2001.
- Outside general counsel for the board of directors of The Georgia Hospital Association from 2007-2010.
- Established a comprehensive compliance program for a university medical facility in Tennessee.
- Established a comprehensive compliance program for a provider of dialysis services with locations throughout the United States.
- Established health care compliance training programs for medical device manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, and health care providers operating both single site and nationwide locations.
- Assisted numerous health care providers and suppliers with successfully conducting internal compliance investigations and responding to government investigations.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- “Overseeing Compliance,” *Trustee*, Vol. 69, No. 1, January, 2016.
- “IRB Compliance Audits—An Underutilized Best Practice,” *Bloomberg BNA: Medical Research Law & Policy Report*, August 5, 2015.

Professional & Community Engagement

- Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital, board of directors, 2013-present
- Catholic Charities of Greater Atlanta, board of directors, 2011-present
- Leadership Atlanta, Class of 2013
- Medical University of South Carolina, board of visitors, 2011-2013
- Student Aid Foundation Inc., board of directors, 2009-present
- Emory University, board of visitors, 2005-2007
- Children’s Community Board, 2005-2007
- Emory Healthcare, advisory board, 2005-2011, chair 2009-2011
- Georgia Academy of Health Care Attorneys, board of directors, 2000-2005; president 2003-2004
- Leadership Gwinnett, 1994-1995
- American Medical Association, Group Practice Legislative Advisory Committee, 1995-1997

Education

- University of South Carolina (J.D., 1984)
- University of South Carolina (B.A., 1981)

Languages

- French

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia

Related Services

Corporate & Finance | Corporate & Business Transactions | Health Care | Health Care Regulatory Counseling and Fraud & Abuse | Life Sciences | Corporate Governance | Reimbursement | Academic Medical Centers & Teaching Hospitals