2026 WSSHA Spring Health Law Conference
Speaker Biographies

1. Prove it or Lose it

Darby Allen, Partner, Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP (DWT)

Darby serves as the firmwide chair of DWT's Healthcare Practice Group. She advises health systems and other providers, as well as innovators in the industry, on a wide spectrum of regulatory issues. She has extensive experience with the federal and state fraud and abuse laws. Darby also regularly assists clients with Medicare and Medicaid audit responses, payor disputes, day-to-day operational counseling, and reimbursement matters.

Kris Deyerle, VP & General Counsel, Confluence Health

Kris is vice president and general counsel for Confluence Health, where she has served as in-house counsel since 2017. In her role, she oversees the full range of legal and business issues facing a rural healthcare system, including corporate governance, strategic initiatives, risk management, and labor and employment. Kris also oversees issues related to the medical staff, corporate transactions, contracting, litigation and regulatory and accreditation matters. Prior to joining Confluence Health, Kris worked as in-house counsel at a health system in Arizona and in an academic medical center in Philadelphia.

Marci Love, Of Counsel*, Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP (DWT)

Marci provides legal and regulatory counseling to healthcare providers, suppliers, and industry entities, with a focus on Medicare, quality measurement and value-based payment, provider-based status, hospital configuration and classification, CMS Innovation Center payment models, and hospital price transparency. She brings more than two decades of experience from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she served in the CMS Division of the Office of the General Counsel, most recently as a supervisory attorney.

Marci's deep institutional knowledge and hands-on regulatory experience enable her to offer clients practical insights into federal policy development and compliance challenges.

** Admitted to practice only in Pennsylvania. Practicing under the supervision of D.C. Bar members.*

2. ***The End of Business as Usual? Washington's Corporate Practice of Medicine***

Katerina LaMarche, Policy Director, Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA)

Katerina is a policy director at WSHA, which represents all hospitals in Washington State, and works to improve the delivery, quality, accessibility, and affordability of health care. Katerina's role focuses on representing hospital and health systems' state legislative and regulatory policy interests. Prior to WSHA, she worked as an associate policy director at the Washington State Medical Association and as an attorney at the Social Security Administration in Washington, DC.

Melanie Maurice, Attorney, Beeghly Ricoy Law Group

Melanie advises healthcare providers, management organizations, and emerging healthcare platforms on regulatory compliance, transactional structuring, and operational risk management. Her practice includes counseling clients on corporate practice of medicine considerations, governance design, contracting strategies, and multistate regulatory alignment. Melanie works closely with healthcare organizations navigating evolving state requirements and assists in structuring management services arrangements and physician-aligned entities designed to balance clinical autonomy with administrative oversight.

Peter D. Ricoy, Beeghly Ricoy Law Group

Peter is a healthcare business and regulatory attorney with more than 20 years of experience advising providers, MSOs, investors, and health systems on complex transactional and compliance matters. His practice includes corporate practice of medicine (CPOM) structuring, including the design and implementation of physician-aligned entities and management services models in Washington and across the Pacific Northwest. Peter works closely with healthcare organizations navigating evolving legislative and regulatory developments and has participated in stakeholder discussions surrounding recent CPOM reforms, bringing both practical structuring experience and policy insight to his work.

3. Medical Malpractice Case Law and Licensing Update (Washington State)

Hyejin Lee, Associate Attorney, Johnson, Graffe, Keay, Moniz, and Wick, LLP

Hyejin Lee is an associate attorney at Johnson, Graffe, Keay, Moniz, and Wick, LLP. She defends healthcare professionals in medical malpractice litigation and healthcare licensing matters as a civil litigator. Hyejin received her JD from the University of Washington School of Law. Before joining the legal profession, she was an academic art historian of eighteenth-century European art. Outside the office, Hyejin enjoys exploring the Pacific Northwest with her partner and their dog, cooking Korean food, and visiting art museums and cultural sites around the world.

Michael McDermott, Partner, Johnson, Graffe, Keay, Moniz & Wick, LLP

Michael is a partner at Johnson, Graffe, Keay, Moniz & Wick, LLP, where he has been practicing for fifteen years. He focuses his practice on the defense of medical malpractice actions and professional licensing matters brought against health care providers. Michael received his undergraduate degree from Gonzaga University and his JD from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. He has also been active in the Washington Health Care Risk Management Society as a member and previously served on its Board. Outside of work, Michael enjoys spending time with his family, cooking, and traveling.

Sam Sentennm, Associate Attorney, Johnson, Graffe, Keay, Moniz, and Wick, LLP

Sam Sentenn is an associate attorney at Johnson, Graffe, Keay, Moniz, and Wick, LLP, defending medical professionals involved in malpractice litigation. Before receiving her JD from the University of Washington, Sam studied microbiology and medical science, specializing in gene therapy. Outside the courtroom, Sam enjoys competitive swimming and volunteering as a youth swim coach.

4. Hide Your Cookies: Pixel Litigation in Washington

Fred Burnside, Partner, Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP

Fred is a partner in the Seattle Office of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP (DWT). His practice focuses on class-action defense, with an emphasis on privacy and financial services litigation. Fred is the co-Chair of DWT's Class-Action Defense Group, a member of the American Law Institute, and a member of DWT's Executive Committee.

Danny Shickich, Member, Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC

Danny is a member in the Litigation Group of Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC. His practice focuses on complex civil litigation, including insurance coverage and bad faith actions, healthcare-related contractual, regulatory, and compliance disputes, and administrative law proceedings.

5. Federal Panel Update

Jacqueline Barton True, Senior Vice President, Washington State Hospital Association

Jacqueline Barton True is the Senior Vice President for Rural Health, Federal Issues and Advocacy at the Washington State Hospital Association. She is responsible for WSHA's overall advocacy strategy at the state and federal level and implements programs to improve health and health care delivery in rural Washington State.

Evan Klein, Special Assistant, Health Care Authority (HCA)

Evan Klein serves as the Special Assistant for Legislative and Policy Affairs at HCA. Within his role, Evan manages the Agency's state and federal relations and supports the agency's work on various access and affordability initiatives. Prior to joining HCA, Evan spent 6 years as non-partisan staff to the State's Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee as well as time as a Senior Policy Analyst for Washington's Health Benefit Exchange.

6. *AI and the ChatG-Plaintiff*

Avril O'Neil, 2L, Seattle University School of Law

Avril O'Neil is a 2L at Seattle University School of Law. Avril is the current Spring law clerk at Davis Wright Tremaine in the Health Care Practice Group and was the recipient of the Kristin Miles Scholarship in 2025. She is particularly interested in the intersection of health care and the law and intends to pursue a career in this field following graduation.

Ross Siler, Partner, Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP

Ross is partner at Davis Wright Tremaine and his practice focuses on litigation matters for hospital, health system, and lab clients. He regularly represent healthcare clients in class actions, consumer protection cases, government investigations, and general litigation matters.

Elizabeth Stanton-Pates, 3L, University of Washington School of Law

Elizabeth Stanton-Pates is a 3L at the University of Washington School of Law, where she is a Legal Writing Fellow and the Chief Articles Editor of the Washington Law Review. Upon graduation, Elizabeth will be joining the Litigation group at Davis Wright Tremaine, where she hopes to gain experience in regulatory and consumer protection matters.

7. ***Tips for Healthy Projects: Addressing Common Legal Issues on Health Care Construction Project***

Evan A. Brown, Associate, Stoel Rives

Evan Brown is an attorney in Stoel Rives' nationally prominent construction and design practice group. Based in Seattle, he represents owners, developers, contractors, and subcontractors in a variety of transactional, advisory, and dispute resolution matters, ranging from contract negotiation and drafting to claims assistance to litigation and alternative dispute resolution. He has worked on projects and matters around Washington and across the country ranging from small residential construction to large infrastructure and high-rise work. He has represented both owners and contractors on health care-related construction projects, including hospital and clinic expansion projects.

Before joining Stoel Rives, Evan was a judicial law clerk to Chief Judge Thomas R. Bjorgen and Judge Bradley A. Maxa of the Washington Court of Appeals, Division II, a legal intern with Amazon. com, and a judicial extern for Judge Steven C. González of the Washington Supreme Court and Judge Bruce E. Heller of the King County Superior Court.

Bart Reed, Partner, Stoel Rives

Bart Reed is a partner in Stoel Rives' Seattle office, where he practices with the Real Estate and Construction group. With extensive experience in complex commercial and construction law, multistate litigation, and ADR, Bart focuses his practice on construction and design issues and disputes, representing public agencies, private owners/developers, contractors, design professionals, and sureties in diverse matters on both public and private projects. His experience covers a wide range of issues affecting design and construction clients, including contract drafting/negotiation, non-payment and surety claims, construction liens and payment bond claims, design disputes, construction defects, and scheduling issues in the defense and prosecution of delay/impact claims. Bart enjoys building relationships and collaborating with clients to formulate cost-effective, straightforward solutions to mitigate risk and advance important business objectives.

8. *2026 Washington State Legislative Session: Key Health Care Policy & Budget Result*

Emily Brice, Co-Executive Director, Northwest Health Law Advocates

Emily Brice is the Co-Executive Director of Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA), a nonprofit that has worked for over 25 years to expand access to affordable, quality health care in Washington State. Emily has served in government in two states, first as the Senior Health Policy Advisor to the Washington State Insurance Commissioner and later as the Deputy Chief of Policy & Strategy for the Massachusetts Health Connector, a state-based Marketplace agency. Earlier in her career, Emily managed hospital and clinic-based social services programs as the Chicago Site Director for Health Leads and served as a Staff Attorney for NoHLA. She is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Law and the University of Chicago.

Ashlen Strong, Vice President, Government Affairs, Washington State Hospital Association

Ashlen Strong serves as Vice President, Government Affairs for the Washington State Hospital Association. She previously served as a Senior Consultant with Health Management Associates, the government affairs and communications lead for Oregon's largest Medicaid contractor, and the state government affairs lead for several national health care associations in Washington, DC. She earned her law degree and master's in public health from The George Washington University in Washington, DC and her undergraduate degree from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.