

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Health Care Law Section Council? The Council is the governing body for the Health Care Law Section (HCLS). The Council has general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section, and is also responsible for authorizing all commitments or contracts that require the payment of money.

Who is on the Council? The Council is comprised of 13 to 19 members, who must all be active members of the HCLS. Four of the members are officers, consisting of the Treasurer, Secretary, Chair-Elect, and Chair.

How can I join the Council? Each Council member is eligible to serve two three-year terms. Terms are “staggered” so that a certain number of members rotate off each year. Each year, usually in the summer, the Council forms a Nominating Committee to nominate Section members for election to the Council and to nominate Section officers. If you are interested in joining, we encourage you to contact one of the Council members to express your interest. Please note that placement on the Council is not guaranteed due to the limited number of slots available. However, if you would like to take a more active role in the Section, one good option is to become involved in one of the Council Committees.

What are Council Committees? Under the Bylaws, the Council may establish committees to help conduct the activities of the Section. While these Committees must be chaired by a member of the Council, you do not need to be a Council member to participate in the Committees. Please review the list of Council Committees and the committee functions below.

Substantive Law Committee

The Substantive Law Committee is a volunteer group established by the HCLS Council. Its mission includes preparing and coordinating speakers for webinar topics that are timely and relevant to the Section’s membership. Committee members are divided into the following four subcommittees based upon their expertise and focus of their legal practice: the Medical-Legal Subcommittee; Providers Subcommittee; Payors Subcommittee, and Technology Subcommittee.

New Lawyers and Law Students Committee

The New Lawyers and Law Students Committee hosts events and develops other opportunities for attorneys who are new to the practice of law and law students to interface with the HCLS. Each year the New Lawyers and Law Students Committee coordinates events and programs with Michigan law schools, including student Lunch-and-Learns (where students can learn about careers in health care law and ask questions about health law topics). The New Lawyers and Law Students Committee also works with the Michigan law schools to find health law focused students to receive the annual HCLS law student scholarship program.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is responsible for HCLS recruitment and retention efforts. The Membership Committee organizes membership appreciation activities, networking events and speaker panels. The Membership Committee meets monthly and is responsible for organizing various networking events each year, which have included Tigers and Wings games and virtual trivia. The Membership Committee also coordinates with the New Lawyers and Law Students Committee to increase membership and promote the benefits of the HCLS.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee monitors pending legislation referred to the Health Policy committees in the State House and Senate, provides updates on significant rule and regulatory amendments, and interacts with legislators and lobbyists to bring up-to-date legislative developments to the membership.

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee oversees Section publications on topics relevant to our members' practices, including federal and Michigan healthcare laws, with a focus on Michigan issues. The Committee regularly solicits authors for articles and assists the authors with editing and publishing on the Section's website. In some instances, the Publications Committee engages subcommittees to prepare multichapter publications involving a larger number of authors and a more comprehensive analysis of the law and healthcare issues on a particular topic.

Pro Bono Committee

The Pro Bono Committee has teamed up with Michigan Community Resources on two initiatives to provide Section members with the opportunity to engage in meaningful Pro Bono work. Michigan Community Resources is an organization that advances the missions of Michigan nonprofits that serve low-income individuals and communities through pro bono and low-cost legal services. The first initiative allows Section members to receive periodic notices of pro bono opportunities and elect to participate in such matters directly with Michigan Community Resources. The second initiative involves working with Michigan Community Resources to organize a workshop to educate representatives of nonprofit organizations and community groups about the basics of organizing and operating a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Pro Bono committee hopes these initiatives will evolve into long-term and reoccurring opportunities for Section members to engage in worthy pro bono activities.

Fellows Committee

The Fellows Committee is responsible for soliciting nominees for the HCLS Fellows Program and ultimately selecting the recipients. The Fellows Program recognizes former HCLS leaders and active members who have made sustained outstanding contributions to the Section and the profession of Health Care Law in Michigan. The Fellows awards are presented at the HCLS Annual meeting each year.

Communicable Disease and Pandemic Response Task Force

The Communicable Diseases and Pandemic Preparedness Task Force focuses on researching and preparing resources regarding federal and state legal requirements in handling communicable disease and pandemic events, such as Ebola, Zika, and COVID-19. Ideally, the resources will contain citations, recommendations, and useful links for various aspects with disease progression and management. Topics covered could include detection, isolation, and quarantine; treatment of condition; supplies and equipment requirements; waste disposal; handling patient discharge/death; scarce resources, use of personal protective equipment, and privacy and confidentiality. Task force members will be requested to focus on certain aspects of law and regulation. Task force leadership will work to edit materials for flow and consistency. End products will be made available to HCLS members.