

Speaker Bios

Lauren Aronson

Partner, Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas
laronson@mc-dc.com



Lauren Aronson is a health policy expert and serves as a partner at Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas, a bipartisan lobbying firm in Washington, DC. Prior to joining the firm, Aronson spent three years at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), where she directed the Office of Legislation and led the Agency's interactions with Capitol Hill. Before joining CMS, Aronson served as a Professional Staff Member for the House Ways and Means Committee, working on Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D payment policies.

Aronson served in the White House under President Obama as the Policy Director in the Office of Health Reform. She was a key member of the Administration's team working to enact the Affordable Care Act, President Obama's signature health care law.

Kara Cardinale

Founder & Principal, Kasper Cardinale Consulting
kc@kaspercardinale.com



Kara Cardinale serves as founder and principal of Kasper Cardinale Consulting, LLC, an independent health policy consultancy that provides strategic advice and analysis to clients on regulatory and legislative actions impacting the health care industry, including recent actions by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to advance the treatment of kidney disease across the U.S. Previously,

Kara served as a senior Medicare program examiner at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) during enactment of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) and implementation of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). Kara earned her Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from Haverford College and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Texas at Austin.

Jake A. Cilek

Associate, McGuireWoods, LLP

jcilek@mcguirewoods.com



Jake's practice focuses on healthcare law and encompasses a range of regulatory, transactional and corporate matters. His work includes counseling clients with regard to the legal aspects of day-to-day operations, including general corporate matters; anti-kickback and Stark issues; self-referral, corporate practice of medicine and fee-splitting prohibitions; HIPAA and health information privacy; and certificate of need and licensure requirements.

Jake regularly represents a variety of dialysis and nephrology providers, vascular access center operators and owners, hospitals, physician group practices, skilled nursing facilities, healthcare information technology companies and other healthcare providers in structuring mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, accountable care and capitated care arrangements, syndications and divestitures.

Kimberly J. Kannensohn

Partner, McGuireWoods, LLP

kkannensohn@mcguirewoods.com



Kimberly focuses her practice on the provision of corporate, regulatory and compliance counseling to healthcare and life sciences companies. The cornerstone of her practice is providing guidance to clients regarding HIPAA and the HITECH Act, the Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse laws, the Stark Law, Medicare coverage and reimbursement rules, and state healthcare laws and regulations.

She regularly assists providers in the development and implementation of corporate compliance programs, in responding to government investigations and in contract negotiations. Her clients include life sciences companies, disease management providers, group purchasing organizations, retail and specialty pharmacies, hospitals, dialysis providers, durable medical equipment companies, physicians and physician practices.