

Michaela D. Poizner

SHAREHOLDER

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Michaela Poizner advises health care provider organizations on regulatory, operational and transactional matters across the behavioral health, medical and long-term care sectors. She helps clients buy and sell health care assets, navigate licensure and Medicare enrollment, assess fraud and abuse issues, address privacy and security concerns and develop policies and procedures that support compliant growth.

Michaela represents a broad range of provider organizations, including multistate psychiatric hospital systems, outpatient and residential mental health treatment programs, geriatric psychiatry providers, medical-surgical hospitals with psychiatric units, skilled nursing and assisted living providers, organizations serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, physician practice organizations and regional health systems.

Deeply engaged in the health care community, Michaela has held multiple roles with Leadership Health Care — a Nashville Health Care Council initiative focused on developing emerging health care leaders — including serving as a past chair and on its board. Before entering private practice, she clerked for the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Office of General Counsel.

Education

- Vanderbilt Law School (J.D., 2013)
 - Vanderbilt Law Review, Senior Articles Editor
- Middle Tennessee State University (B.S.B.A., *cum laude*, 2007)

Bar Admissions

- Tennessee

Memberships

- American Health Law Association
 - Chair, Fundamentals of Health Law Program Planning Committee, June 2024-May 2025

Capabilities

- Behavioral Health
- Health Care Compliance
- Health Care
- Health Care Mergers & Acquisitions

- Vice Chair, Behavioral Health Practice Group, July 2025-Present
- Leadership Health Care
 - Board Chair, July 2023-June 2024
 - Board Vice Chair and Chair, Strategic Development Committee, July 2022-June 2023
 - Board Member, July 2018-December 2025
 - Chair, Membership Engagement Committee, July 2019-June 2021

Recognition

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Health Care Law, 2025-2026
- Named one of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® in America in Health Care Law, 2021-2024
- Selected to Mid-South Rising Stars in Health Care Law, 2019-2023
- Named to *Nashville Post's* In Charge: Health Care List, 2024-2026

Matters

- Coordinated health care transactions, including medical-surgical and psychiatric hospital and nursing home acquisitions and sales and physician practice acquisitions.
- Guided a behavioral health provider through the full spectrum of licensure and zoning requirements to open outpatient and residential facilities in Tennessee for the first time.
- Assisted a hospital in establishing the legal and operational process for involuntary commitment of psychiatric patients, including analyzing the interaction between the involuntary commitment process and EMTALA.
- Assisted a behavioral health hospital in navigating its relationship with a disability rights patient advocacy group, including responding to requests for patient records and related inquiries from state licensing agency.
- Managed all aspects of initial and ongoing Medicare provider enrollment for a multifacility, multistate long-term care provider.
- Assisted multiple clients with obtaining initial licensure and changing ownership of licensed long-term care facilities in Tennessee and other states.
- Guided a client through the entire process of closing a licensed and Medicare-certified nursing home, including transferring the facility license and obtaining and maintaining inactive status for the nursing home license.
- Managed attorney general review processes for multiple transactions involving the sale or merger of nonprofit health care facilities in Tennessee, Virginia and New Jersey.
- Drafted complete HIPAA privacy policies and procedures for a multistate psychiatric health system, including analyzing the interaction between state privacy laws and HIPAA.
- Advised clients on application of 42 C.F.R. Part 2 related to substance use disorder and alcohol addiction treatment, including analyzing the interaction of Part 2 with HIPAA and applicable state laws.
- Analyzed fraud and abuse compliance, including Stark Law, Anti-Kickback Statute and state law issues.
- Advised a large number of clients on responding to subpoenas, law enforcement requests and attorney demands for confidential patient information.

- Represented a behavioral health provider operating approximately two dozen psychiatric hospitals and outpatient programs in multiple states in its \$310 million sale to a private equity buyer.
- Represented a multi-state behavioral health provider in its \$170 million sale of eight psychiatric hospitals to a multi-state behavioral health and addiction treatment provider.
- Represented a city public health authority in its \$11 million acquisition of a public hospital.
- Represented a nonprofit foundation in the \$40 million sale of its interest in a large hospital to an academic medical center.
- Represented a nationally regarded health system in a novel transaction with nearby colleges and the local public school system to establish a health sciences academy.
- Represented a national laboratory company in a joint venture with a nonprofit health system valued at approximately \$300 million to combine all the parties' outreach services in a state.
- Represented a national laboratory company in its \$100 million acquisition of a laboratory specializing in AI-driven services.
- Represented a multi-state behavioral health provider in acquisition of a ketamine practice.
- Represented a national ambulatory surgery center operator in multiple buy-up transactions and health system joint ventures related to physician-owned surgery centers.
- Represented multiple behavioral health providers in the creation and implementation of a captive PC structure and ongoing corporate practice of medicine compliance.

Publications

May 23, 2023

Mental Health Wellness Programs for Clinicians Now More Accessible Due To Congressional Protection

Co-Author, Medical Economics

November 2019

State Response to Opioid Crisis and Opioid Prescribing Requirements: A 50 State Survey

American Health Law Association

November 2017

An Enterprise Risk Management Framework for Health Care Transactions: A Step-by-Step Approach

AHLA Business Law & Governance Practice Group Newsletter

September 1, 2017

Just What the Doctor Ordered

Marijuana Venture

January 2017

Enterprise Risk Management Handbook for Health Care Entities

AHLA, co-published with the American Society of Healthcare Risk Management, Third Edition

January 2017

Multi-State Compliance for Substance Use Disorder Treatment
Compliance Today

April 2016

Ransomware: Coming to a Health Care Organization Near You
AHLA Enterprise Risk Management Task Force Executive Summary

April 2016

Value-Based Reimbursement: The New Normal
Health Reform WK-EDGE

March 2016

Q&A: 'Documentation and Training' Key to Quality of Care Reporting
Health Reform WK-EDGE

March 2016

Value-Based Reimbursement: The New Norm For Health Care?
Law360

January 2016

Nation's Largest Skilled Therapy Provider Settles FCA Allegations for \$125 Million
AHLA Fraud & Abuse Practice Group Email Alert

January 2026

2026 Legal Landscape for SUD Treatment: Recent Developments and What's on the Horizon
Co-Author, American Health Law Association (AHLA) Behavioral Health Practice Group Briefing

Events

November 2025

Fundamentals of Behavioral Health
AHLA Fundamentals of Health Law 2025

July 2025

When FMV is Not Enough: How to Not Get Crushed Between a Competitive Hiring Market and Regulatory Constraints
American Health Law Association Annual Meeting

May 2025

Teaching the Art of the Transaction: Using Real World Experiences to Sharpen Your Deal Team
AHLA Health Care Transactions 2025 Conference

April 2023

Healthcare 2023: A Government Divided and a Market Reset
Windsor National Associates Spring Meeting

February 2023

Modified Behavior(al Health): What's New in Mental Health and SUD?

American Health Law Association Physicians and Hospitals Law Institute

November 2022

Good Behavior: What Every Health Lawyer Needs to Know About Behavioral Health

American Health Law Association Fundamentals of Health Law

June 2022

Telebehavioral Health 2.0: Where We Are, and Where We're Going

American Health Law Association Annual Meeting

November 2021

Good Behavior: What Every Health Lawyer Needs to Know About Behavioral Health

American Health Law Association Fundamentals of Health Law

November 2020

Tele-HELP! Understanding Telehealth from A to Zoom

American Health Law Association Fundamentals of Health Law

November 2020

Someone Else's Misfortune, The Unthinkable Threat in the Exam Room: Provider Sexual Abuse

Michigan Professional Insurance Exchange Educational Program

February 2020

Sex, Drugs, and . . . Confidentiality: Privacy for Pediatric Patients

American Health Law Association Physicians and Hospitals Law Institute

October 2019

Zero Tolerance: The Toxic Threat of Provider-Patient Sexual Misconduct and How to Stop It

Michigan Society of Healthcare Risk Management Fall Program

October 2019

An Enterprise Risk Management Approach to Provider-Patient Sexual Misconduct

COPIC Patient Safety/Risk Management Forum

June 2019

Zero Tolerance: The Toxic Threat of Provider-Patient Sexual Misconduct and How to Stop It

Michigan Professional Insurance Exchange Regional Risk Management & Patient Safety Networking Program

November 2018

An ERM Approach to the Threat of Provider-Patient Sexual Misconduct

American Health Law Association, Enterprise Risk Management Task Force Educational Call

October 2018

Managing the Toxic Enterprise Risk of Provider-Patient Sexual Misconduct

American Society for Healthcare Risk Management Annual Conference

December 2017

Enterprise Risk Management in the Value-based Payment World: Threats and Opportunities in Collecting Quality Data

Enterprise Risk Management Task Force Educational Call

October 2017

Accountable Care Organizations: Why Value-based Reimbursement Should Thrill You—and Scare You Silly

American Society for Healthcare Risk Management Annual Conference

August 2017

The ABC's of Healthcare

Tennessee Bar Association Program: Why Health Law? A Guide for New Practitioners

November 2016

Healthcare Industry in Transition: Moving to a Value Based System and Navigating the Regulatory Environment

BDO Leadership Event

October 2016

Managing Health Care Transactions

Tennessee Bar Association Health Law Primer

June 2016

An OCR Enforcement Update-Learning From the Past and Preparing for the Future

American Health Law Association Annual Meeting

May 2016

Changes to Physician Reimbursement Under CMS's MACRA Proposed Rule

American Bar Association, Health Law Section CLE Webinar

May 2016

Meaningful Use Blues from an ERM Perspective

American Health Law Association, Enterprise Risk Management Task Force Open Discussion Webinar

May 2016

HIPAA and Telehealth

Nashville Bar Association Health Law Institute