

Tessa M. Lancaster

ASSOCIATE

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Tessa Lancaster is an investigations lawyer with extensive knowledge in health care, financial services, environmental, and tax government enforcement actions and litigation. Tessa advises on matters involving fraud and abuse enforcement, including in investigations and litigation predicated on the False Claims Act (“FCA”), federal and state Anti-Kickback and Stark laws and Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and coverage criteria. Tessa provides comprehensive representation and strategic counsel for regulatory considerations to a variety of health care providers, including hospitals and health systems, physician groups, individual health care professionals, home health agencies and long-term care providers. Tessa helps clients with a variety of matters including Medicare and Medicaid compliance, state licensure requirements, and compliance with federal and state fraud and abuse laws.

Tessa’s government investigation practice includes representing professional firms and investors in civil and criminal tax investigations involving syndicated conservation easements. She works closely with Polsinelli tax, environmental litigation, and business insurance attorneys utilizing her investigation skills and experience working with the government with substantive legal knowledge to comprehensively address the increased IRS, Department of Justice and Congressional scrutiny of these deals in recent years. Working with boards of directors and corporate management, Tessa also helps clients address internal compliance matters through developing compliance programs, conducting internal investigations and determining appropriate corrective action.

Prior to joining Polsinelli, Tessa worked at a law firm representing hospitals, health care facilities, physician practices and other health care providers in regulatory, transactional and reimbursement matters. During law school, she interned at the American Medical Association, City of Chicago Law Department, Carle Foundation Hospital and Department of Health and Human Services Office of Counsel to the Inspector General with a Pathways fraud and abuse fellowship.

Education

- University of Illinois College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2020)
 - Internet & Symposium Editor, Illinois Law Review
- University of Michigan (B.A., 2015)

Capabilities

- Health Care
- Health Care Litigation
- False Claims Act Defense
- Government Investigations
- Conservation Easement

- History and International Studies

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska

Recognition

- Named one of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* in Health Care Law, 2025-2026

Publications

April 29, 2026

Fraud & Abuse: Recent Trends, Key Developments and What's Next

March 25, 2026

Clock Beats Commissioner: IRS Concedes \$48M Easement Case

March 10, 2026

Settlement Dominoes: The FTC's PBM Playbook Is Going Industrywide

February 16, 2026

A Settlement, Not a Sigh of Relief: What the FTC's Express Scripts Deal Signals for Enforcement Risk

May 16, 2025

Health Care Fraud and Abuse 2024 Year in Review

April 16, 2025

Seventh Circuit Reverses Conviction in Landmark Anti-Kickback Case

April 11, 2024

Health Care Fraud and Abuse 2023 Year in Review

October 5, 2023

Med-Staff Newsletter

July 25, 2023

Slogans and Insults: Fisher Defendants Respond to the Government's Novel Conservation Easement Case

July 18, 2023

First Criminal Syndicated Conservation Easement Trial Begins this Week