Legal Manual for New York Physicians

Fifth Edition

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PREFACE

The fifth edition of *Legal Manual for New York Physicians* is the result of a continued collaboration between the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) and the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY). The book is designed to provide physicians and their staffs with a fundamental understanding of many of the legal and regulatory requirements that affect the practice of medicine. Ideally, it will alert physicians and their staffs to issues and concerns before they become major problems and will help practitioners understand when personal legal counsel should be consulted.

This manual is also a valuable reference to attorneys who provide guidance and advice to physicians. Physicians and their medical practices are subject to an array of complex legal and regulatory requirements, and attorneys who advise physicians must have a thorough understanding of the legal and regulatory environment affecting the entire practice of medicine. That environment is continually evolving, as reflected by the changes to this fifth edition. All the chapters were reviewed, with more than half substantively updated, and a new chapter has been added: "Telehealth Considerations."

This book is designed to function equally well whether read from cover to cover or consulted only occasionally when legal issues arise in the course of practicing medicine. Most of the chapters address applicable laws and discuss practical considerations and concerns using a question-and-answer format. This format, as well as a detailed table of contents and in-depth index, all are designed to help readers quickly locate the answers to their questions. Because this manual is a handbook rather than a legal treatise, many chapters end with a list of resources for further information. In addition, the Forms section contains samples of many of the forms referenced throughout.

The attorneys and physicians who collaborated to publish and update this manual were all volunteers who, despite their busy schedules, devoted many hours to this project. Their experience, intellect and commitment have resulted in a first-rate resource. We also would like to thank Robert Abrams, who served as co-editor on the first three editions of this book.

We hope the professional dedication and spirit of volunteerism that spurred the publication of the original *Legal Manual for New York Physicians* and that continued with this updated volume can be sustained and, perhaps, strengthened, to encourage attorneys and physicians to work together on future editions. As the legal and medical professions face renewed challenges to serve the public good, the two professions will benefit greatly from such collaborations.

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ROBERT N. SWIDLER, ESQ.

Robert N. Swidler is Vice President of Legal Services for St. Peter's Health Partners—a system of hospitals, nursing homes, home care, primary care centers, a multispecialty physician practice, hospice, retirement communities and other services in New York's Capital Region. Previously, he was general counsel to Northeast Health, a member of Hiscock & Barclay, counsel to the New York State Office of Mental Health, assistant counsel to Governor Mario Cuomo and was counsel to the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law. He is also Adjunct Associate Professor, Alden March Bioethics Institute of Albany Medical Center, and Adjunct Professor, Union Graduate College/Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

CLAUDIA O. TORREY, ESQ.

Claudia O. Torrey is a sole practitioner in Tennessee who received her legal training at New York Law School in New York City, New York, and her undergraduate degree in economics from Syracuse University. Her profes-

sional background includes the areas of health law, civil rights, product liability and higher education. Ms. Torrey is listed in several prestigious publications; her efforts have also been recognized by the American Health Lawyers Association and the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature of the Georgetown University Kennedy Institute of Ethics.

In 2000, Ms. Torrey was one of 115 people from around the world selected to participate in a week-long e-health summit on the campus of Harvard University; in 2009, Ms. Torrey was selected to be part of a delegation to the United Nations on health issues concerning women and girls, with particular emphasis on the Millennium Goal regarding AIDS and caregiving; and in 2010, Ms. Torrey was one of several women highlighted in the global publication by London based Ark Group Publishing, "Success Strategies for Women Lawyers."

In 2013, Ms. Torrey was honored by the New York State Bar Association as the recipient of the Outstanding Non-Resident Member Award, and in 2016, Ms. Torrey was honored by the NYSBA Committee on Membership for the conclusion of 12 years of service as the Inaugural Chair of the Subcommittee on Non-Resident Membership. A Fellow of both the NYSBA and the American Bar Association, in 2017 Ms. Torrey was selected by "Marquis Who's Who" to be a recipient of the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for demonstrated leadership excellence and longevity.

DAVID N. VOZZA, ESQ.

David N. Vozza is a member of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. He devotes his practice to the areas of healthcare and litigation. Mr. Vozza's practice focuses on defending health care professionals in connection with disciplinary and regulatory actions before federal and state agencies, private and government payor audits, civil and criminal fraud investigations, hospital and privileges disputes, and general healthcare litigation in both the federal and state courts.

Mr. Vozza regularly defends health care professionals before the Office of Professional Medical Conduct and Office of Professional Discipline. He also frequently lectures at hospitals throughout New York State regarding medical fraud, regulatory agencies, professional licensure, and medical documentation.

DONALD J. WALKER, M.H.S.A., J.D.

Donald Walker is senior associate counsel at Albany Medical Center, providing health, hospital, educational and corporate legal services on behalf of AMC's hospitals, medical college, OPO and related entities. He received his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo (1971),

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MELANIE I. WIENER, ESQ.

Melanie I. Wiener is a partner at Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone, LLP in the Commercial Litigation Department. Her practice focuses on commercial litigation, insurance defense and personal injury, but she also has significant experience handling civil and health care litigation. As the former director of the Health Care Collection & Reimbursement Recovery Department at the firm, Ms. Wiener counseled the firm's nursing home clients on all matters pertaining to private collections and estate recoveries. Ms. Wiener is a graduate of Hofstra University School of Law.

ROBERT ANDREW WILD, ESQ.

Robert Andrew Wild is a founding member of Garfunkel Wild, P.C. He has and continues to serve as its chairman since the firm's inception. The firm, which maintains offices in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, represents an array of national and regional health care provider institutions, companies, practitioners, and not-for-profit groups, as well as clients in other industries.

Mr. Wild's principal activities include complex transactions for health care providers, including regulatory, compliance, mergers and acquisitions, antitrust, reimbursement, professional conduct issues, patient issues, real estate, graduate medical education, and many other areas. Mr. Wild is a frequent lecturer and author in the field of health law, and has addressed a broad variety of groups, organizations, and health care providers.

Mr. Wild was formerly an adjunct professor of health law, Hofstra University Law School. He has also served as Assistant Clinical Professor of Health Law at Stony Brook University, Long Island, New York. Mr. Wild is a member of the New York State Bar Association Health Law Section, a past Chair of the Board of United Way of Long Island, current Board and Executive Committee Member of United Way of Long Island, current Board and Executive Committee Member of New York Institute of Technology, on the Advisory Board of United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County, the Board of the St. John's Law School Alumni Association and a past board member of the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority. Mr. Wild received his B.A. in 1964 from the State University of New York at Buffalo and his J.D. in 1967 from St. John's University School of Law.

ROSLYN WINDHOLZ, ESQ.

Roslyn Windholz is deputy general counsel for health at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Her areas of concentration include drafting rules and regulations on health-related matters, emergency preparedness, human subjects research, and confidentiality. She is a graduate of Queens College and Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, where she was a member of the Law Review.

CAROLYN REINACH WOLF, ESQ.

Carolyn Reinach Wolf is an executive partner in the law firm of Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone LLP and director of the firm's Mental Health Law practice. Ms. Wolf holds a J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law, an M.S. in Health Services Administration from the Harvard School of Public Health, and an M.B.A. in Management from the Hofstra University School of Business. She is admitted to practice in New York State and federal courts as well as the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Wolf is an adjunct professor at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, teaching Law and Psychiatry. Prior to practicing law, Ms. Wolf was a hospital administrator and Director of Hospital Risk Management.

Ms. Wolf's practice concentrates in the areas of mental health and health care law, representing mental health and health care professionals, major hospital systems and community hospitals, institutional and community outpatient programs, skilled nursing facilities, higher education institutions, individuals and families. Her expertise includes mental hygiene law, including retention and treatment over objection to psychiatric cases, mental health warrants, capacity determinations, informed consent and medical treatment cases, confidentiality and release of records matters, interaction with law enforcement in health care facilities and institutions of higher learning, Kendra's Law applications (Assisted Outpatient Treatment Orders), Article 81 and 17-A guardianship proceedings, civil and criminal litigation and negotiation specific to mental health issues, consultation and advice in navigating the mental health system and legal interventions in the inpatient and outpatient treatment settings, as well as mental health issues in the higher education setting. She also consults with health care institutions on issues of endof-life decision making, development and ongoing functioning of ethics committees, advance directives, and institutional review boards.

HAYDEN S. WOOL, ESQ.

Hayden S. Wool is a partner/director of Garfunkel Wild, P.C. Mr. Wool is a member of the firm's health care, business and compliance and white-collar defense practice groups and advises clients on a variety of business, regula-

tory and transactional issues. Mr. Wool's practice includes the structuring of hospital physician relationships, physician group relationships, review of the structure of business transactions as to compliance with federal and state regulatory matters, as well as issues regarding proper reimbursement for health care activities. He has particular expertise in the application of the federal and state self-referral (Stark) laws, anti-kickback laws, fee-splitting laws and professional misconduct laws, as well as related rules and regulations. Mr. Wool's practice generally involves health care providers, which includes hospitals, medical and dental practices, business entities in the health care field and related organizations. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, the Nassau County Bar Association, the American Health Lawyers Association, the Healthcare Financial Management Association, the Health Care Compliance Association and the Medical Group Management Association. In addition, Mr. Wool was named as a "Super Lawyer" in 2012 and each year thereafter. He was also selected to the 2011 "50 Around 50" class of business professionals by Long Island Business News. He earned a bachelor's degree in health care administration and management, with honors, from Alfred University; and a juris doctor, with honors, from Albany Law School of Union University.

DAVID A. ZARETT, ESQ.

David A. Zarett is a founding member of the law firm Weiss Zarett Brofman Sonnenklar & Levy, P.C., which represents physicians and other health care providers. Mr. Zarett primarily represents physicians in state and federal litigation, arbitration and administrative matters. This representation includes medical staff privileging disputes and state disciplinary cases before the New York State Office of Professional Medical Conduct. Mr. Zarett received a B.A., *cum laude*, from the University of Rochester and graduated from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where he was a notes editor of the Law Review and received the Jacob Burns Medal for graduating first in his class. Mr. Zarett is an Adjunct Professor at Fordham Law School and teaches a class in Healthcare Law and Policy.