



Stephen D. Bittinger

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Stephen Bittinger is a partner in the firm's Charleston and Washington, DC offices. He is a member of the health care/FDA practice group. Stephen focuses his practice on health care reimbursement compliance, defense and litigation, with an emphasis on government and private payer disputes on behalf of providers, suppliers, and manufacturers involved in the health care system with the United States and abroad. He has extensive experience representing large provider groups, home health agencies, medical facilities, ancillary service providers, medical labs, revenue cycle management companies, and drug and device manufacturers in matters including Medicare and Medicaid audits, private payer audits, federal regulatory termination and exclusion proceedings, False Claims Act defense, and health care revenue disputes. In addition, he has experience advising clients on defending and appealing government and private payor audits and has worked collaboratively with government regulators and health care provider associations across the United States. Stephen has represented many providers with federal agency matters, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Center for Program Integrity (CPI), the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), and Health Care Fraud division of the Department of Justice (DOJ).

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm Stephen served at a regional commercial law firm where he focused his practice on health care reimbursement defense and litigation. Previously, Stephen and team represented numerous types of physician practices, home health agencies, medical facilities, ancillary service providers, medical laboratories, revenue cycle management companies, and drug/device manufacturers in Medicare audits (RAC, ZPIC, UPIC, TPE), Medicaid audits (SIU), private payors audits, federal regulatory termination, and exclusion litigation related to the health care revenue cycle.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Stephen Bittinger was named "Presenter of the Year" by 1st Healthcare Compliance

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Akron School of Law, 2010
- M.A., John Carroll University, 2005
- B.S., Kent State University, 2001

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of North Carolina
- Bar of Ohio
- Bar of South Carolina

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 29 April 2021, Health Care Audit and Reimbursement Trends and Challenges (*Podcast*)
- 25 March 2021, Veteran Affairs Auditing US\$35 Billion in Payments to Community Care Providers (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 30 December 2020, Qui Tam Quarterly (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 9 December 2020, HHS Creates a Working Group to Increase Collaboration with DOJ (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 23 October 2020, COVID-19: K&L Gates Triage: CMS Cease and Desist Letters to COVID Labs and Reimbursement Dispute (*Podcast*)
- 18 September 2020, COVID-19: K&L Gates Triage: OIG Updates Work Plan to Include Audits of COVID-19 Related Reimbursement and CARES Act Funding (*Podcast*)
- 4 September 2020, 2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 20 July 2020, COVID-19: CMS Announces Plan to Restart the Audit Machines on 3 August 2020 and Additional Changes to Enforcement Policies (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 17 July 2020, COVID-19: K&L Gates Triage: COVID Audits (*Podcast*)
- 25 June 2020, COVID-19: PPP Loan Borrowers - Your Information May Now Be Public (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 18 May 2020, CMS Issues IPPS/LTCH Proposed Rule for FY 2021 (*Alerts/Updates*)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 26 January 2021, Big Data and False Claims Act Risk Due to COVID-19 (*Event*)

- 13 April 2020, K&L Gates Expands Health Care Practice with Charleston Partner Addition (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, More RAC Audits Are Coming, This Time From VA for Community Care, Health Care Compliance Association, 10 May 2021
- Quoted, "Report on Medicare Compliance: Commercial Player, Medicare Telehealth Audits are Underway, with Some Surprises," Health Care Compliance Association, 18 January 2021

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Health Care and FDA
- Academic Medical Centers (AMCs)
- Data Protection, Privacy, and Security
- Digital Health
- Food, Drugs, Medical Devices, and Cosmetics (FDA)
- Health Care Fraud and Abuse (U.S.)
- Health Care Payor-Provider Disputes (U.S.)
- Hospitals and Health Systems
- Internal Investigations
- Investigations, Enforcement, and White Collar
- Public Policy and Law
- White Collar Crime

INDUSTRIES

- Health Care Sector
- Lab, Pharmacy, and Durable Medical Equipment
- Pharmaceuticals, Biologics, and Medical Devices
- Post-Acute/Senior Housing and Care