



## Carolyn Fixel Merritt

### Of Counsel

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## OVERVIEW

Carolyn Merritt focuses her practice on a variety of health law issues, including health care regulatory, compliance and operational issues. She has experience representing hospital clients in the preparation, review and negotiation of health care contracts, including contracts with physicians. Carolyn has also assisted hospitals and other health care providers with due diligence, regulatory and operational issues associated with changes of ownership. In addition, she regularly advises clients as to compliance with state and federal fraud and abuse laws, physician self-referral laws, EMTALA, health care privacy laws and reimbursement issues. Carolyn provides guidance to her health care clients in a variety of health law matters. She focuses her practice on a multitude of health law issues, including health care regulatory, compliance and operational issues. She has demonstrated expertise in understanding the complex issues hospital clients face in the preparation, review and negotiation of an extensive variety of health care contracts, including physician employment agreements, professional services agreements, management agreements, and physician recruitment agreements, and is able to clearly define its impact to her clients. Carolyn regularly assists health care clients with due diligence, regulatory, contractual and operational issues associated with change of ownership. Carolyn also has experience counseling hospital clients with comprehensive audits of their financial relationships with physicians, and has worked with clients in filing disclosures under the Self Referral Disclosure Protocol. In addition, she educates clients as to compliance with state and federal fraud and abuse laws, including the anti-kickback statute and Stark Law, EMTALA, health care privacy laws, reimbursement, and risk management issues.

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Health Lawyers Association, Member

## EDUCATION

- J.D., Vanderbilt Law School, 2002
- B.A., Davidson College, 1999 (*cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*)

## ADMISSIONS

- Bar of North Carolina
- Bar of Tennessee

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 16 December 2020, CMS Finalizes Updates to the Stark Law to Reduce Regulatory Burdens and Provide Flexibility to Providers
- 16 December 2020, White Paper: CMS Finalizes Updates to the Stark Law to Reduce Regulatory Burdens and Provide Flexibility to Providers
- 1 June 2020, COVID-19: Navigating The Path To Recovery - Planning for Life After 1135 Waivers & Other Regulatory Flexibility Ends (Part 2: The Stark Waivers)
- 2 April 2020, COVID-19: K&L Gates Triage: COVID-19 Stark Waivers
- 7 November 2019, A Starkly Different Landscape – A Deep Dive Into CMS' Recently Proposed Amendments to the Stark Law
- 15 December 2015, CMS Finalizes Two New Exceptions and Other Modifications to the Stark Law
- 24 July 2015, Potential Stark Changes Ahead

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Health Care and FDA