HansonBridgett



Jillian Somers Donovan

Partner

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Firm Leadership
Health Care Section Leader

Areas of Focus

- Health Care Litigation
- Health Care
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Medical Staff
- Senior Housing and Care

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Jillian leads the firm's Health Section, while focusing on civil and regulatory litigation for health care industry clients and providers of long-term care services. Her representation encompasses health facilities and senior living, including skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, medical staffs, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, independent living communities, and intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled. She represents clients in litigation and administrative proceedings, such as license revocation actions. She handles all phases of litigation: discovery, law and motion practice, mediation, arbitration, administrative hearings, trials, writs, and appeals.

Jillian guides clients through issues involving multiple government agencies, including the California Department of Public Health, California Department of Social Services, California Department of Health Care Services, California Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She handles advice and counsel for disputes with government agencies and manages the response to investigations conducted by the same.

Jillian also works with hospitals and physicians on matters related to medically ineffective care. Jillian has litigated multiple emergency petitions under Probate Code 4735 and advised on situations involving the same. Jillian's hospital work includes supporting the client's team through complex discharges. She litigates complex discharges, where necessary, to help the team

achieve a safe and appropriate discharge.

As part of her work with hospital and medical staff clients, Jillian defends hospitals, medical staffs, and medical staff leaders in civil litigation arising from peer review activities. Jillian has represented multiple medical staffs in formal hearings involving peer review actions. Jillian has also served as a trial attorney representing hospitals in lawsuits involving peer review and physician contracting issues.

Jillian's prior experience includes representing companies in large-scale breach of contract actions, state and federal class actions, and state attorney general actions. Her representation has involved pharmaceutical and health care litigation, as well as consumer fraud actions.

Pro Bono

Jillian strongly supports pro bono representation and has successfully obtained Domestic Violence Restraining Orders for numerous pro bono clients over the years. During that representation she has attained no-contact orders, modified visitation schedules, emergency orders, and orders for sole custody and visitation. She also works on pro bono matters for military veterans.

Representative Work

Represents skilled nursing facilities in actions challenging regulatory citations, staffing audits, discharge decisions, and federal deficiencies.

Assists medical staffs in peer review proceedings.

Advises and counsels skilled nursing facilities regarding federal and state regulatory compliance, including areas such as section 1418.8 (Epple) and abuse.

Represents hospitals on issues related to advance health care directives, medically ineffective care, and in petitions to determine capacity to make health care decisions under the Probate Code.

Successfully obtained tentative ruling granting hospital's motion for preliminary injunction to discharge patient.

Represented hospital as trial counsel in a lawsuit that raised issues of statewide importance for hospital and medical staff peer review activities.

Trial counsel for a hospital in a month-long jury trial in California Superior Court related to physician peer review and section 1278.5 retaliation.

Trial counsel for multiple skilled nursing clients in cases where successfully obtained dismissal of the citations.

Counseled hospital in litigation related to its residency program.

Trial counsel for skilled nursing facility in multiple cases related to a disruptive resident

Successfully obtained summary judgment dismissing a AA citation for a skilled nursing client.

Publications

“Don’t Get Caught Off Guard: Section 111 Audit Readiness,” co-author, Legal Alert (October 2025)

“CMS Announces Care Compare Changes That Could Lead to Major Five-Star Impacts for Certain SNFs,” co-author, Health Care Legal Alert (June 2025)

“Update: CMS Appeals Ruling Vacating Key Provisions of the Staffing Mandate,” co-author, Health Care Legal Alert (June 2025)

“Federal Judge Vacates Key Provisions of CMS’s Nursing Home Staffing Mandate,” co-author, Health Care Legal Alert (April 2025)

“CMS Ditching the Facility-Initiated Discharge and Ramping up Potential Penalties,” co-author, Health Care Legal Alert (December 2024)

“Final Rule Gives CMS Increased Power to Impose Money Penalties on Skilled Nursing Facilities,” author, Health Care Legal Alert (August 2024)

“Updated Long-Term Care Guidance: Compliance After Six Months,” co-author, Senior Housing and Care Legal Alert (April 2023)

“Health and Safety Code Section 1418.8 (“Epple”) in 2023: Updates and Reminders,” co-author, Senior Housing and Care Legal Alert (January 2023)

“AB 890’s Independent Nurse Practitioner and the Medical Staff,” Health Care Law Alert (September 2022)

“CMS Updates Skilled Nursing Survey Process to Cover Mandatory Staff Vaccination Requirements,” Senior Housing and Care Law Alert (February 2022)

“California Law Now Allows More Professionals to Qualify for the Infection Preventionist Role in Skilled Nursing Facilities,” Senior Housing and Care Law Alert (February 2022)

"New Law Requires Certification of Medical Directors in Skilled Nursing Facilities and Imposes New Reporting Requirements," Senior Housing and Care Law Alert (October 2021)

"New Monetary Penalties for Some Skilled Nursing Transfers, Discharges, and Readmissions," Senior Housing & Care Law Alert (July 2021)

"New California Law Imposes Additional Infection Preventionist and Reporting Requirements on Skilled Nursing Facilities," Health Care Law Alert (October 2020)

"CDPH Requires all California Skilled Nursing Facilities to Submit 'COVID-19 Mitigation Plan' Creating New Documentation Concerns," Health Care Law Alert (May 2020)

"CMS-Mandated COVID-19 Reporting Requirements and Enforcement Actions Coming for Skilled Nursing," Health Care Law Alert (May 2020)

"Update on Epple: California's 'New' Procedure for Providing Medical Interventions Requiring Informed Consent to SNF Residents Who Lack Both Capacity and a Legal Representative," Health Care Law Alert (September 2019)

"CMS' Changes to Nursing Home Compare and the Five Star Rating System," *American Health Lawyers Association* (May 2019)

"Proposed Bill Would Increase Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facility Citations and Penalties," Senior Housing & Care Law Alert (February 2019)

"Social Media: Connections with Residents and Employees - Issues and Concerns," *LeadingAge California Engage Magazine* (May 2018)

"Long-Term Care Requirements of Participation - Phase 2 Implementation Effective November 28, 2017," Health Care Law Alert (November 2017)

"California Statutes Expanded to Include Peer Review Protections and Requirements for Licensed Midwives," Health Care Law Alert (November 2017)

"Fourth Circuit Decides Closely Watched False Claims Act Case, *Michaels v. Agape Senior Community*, But Declines to Rule on Validity of Statistical Sampling," *AHLA Member Alert* (March 2016)

"Finalized Medicare 60-Day Overpayment Rule Goes Into Effect Today – Providers Are You Ready?" Health Care Law Alert (March 2016)

"New California Assisted Suicide Law Gives Senior Care Providers Limited Protection," Senior Housing & Care Law Alert (October 2015)

"Evidence Code Section 1157 Expanded to Include Pharmacy Review Committees," Health Care Law Alert (October 2015)

"Antitrust Considerations For Senior Living Providers," *American Seniors Housing Association Special Issues Brief* (Summer 2013)

"Zealous Advocacy and the Discovery Process: Does the Duty to Cooperate Leave Room for Lawyering after National Day Laborer?" *Practicing Law Institute's Summer Ethics Programs* (June 2011)

Presentations

"Navigating Challenges When Ending RCFE and CCRC Residencies," co-speaker, The LeadingAge California BOLD Annual Conference & Expo (May 2025)

"Addressing Privacy Breaches by Medical Staff Members," co-presenter, CAMSS 54th Annual Educational Forum (May 2025)

"Immediate Jeopardies: Top Issues for Discussion," presenter, CAMSS 54th Annual Educational Forum (May 2025)

"Legal Update," CAMSS Fall Conference (November 2024)

"How to Guide a Defensible Formal Investigation: Do's and Don'ts and Best Practices," CAMSS 53rd Annual Education Forum (May 2024)

"The Medical Staff's Response to Criminal History, Arrests, Prosecutions, and Convictions," CAMSS 53rd Annual Education Forum (May 2024)

"Case Law Update," AHLA's Long Term and Post-Acute Care Law and Compliance (February 2024)

"The Placement Specialist and Transfer/Discharge: Implications and Requirements for SNFs," California Association of Health Facilities (November 2023)

"Crisis to Triumph – Mastering Adversity with Best Practices and a Dash of Resilience," California Assisted Living Association Fall Conference (November 2023)

"Examining Protections for Communications and Documentation," California Association of Health Facilities (July 2023)

"Lessons Learned During the Corrective Action Process: Do's and Don'ts, and Pitfalls that Medical Staff Professionals Can Avoid," co-presenter, California Association Medical Staff

Services/52nd Annual Educational Forum (June 2023)

“Responding to Licensing Board Investigation,” co-presenter, LeadingAge Annual Conference (May 2022)

“AGE-ucation Web Series: Conducting an Investigation after an Adverse Incident at your Community,” LeadingAge California Webinar (March 2022)

“Responding to COVID-19: How In-House Attorneys and Outside Counsel Met the Challenge,” California Society for Healthcare Attorneys’ October Webinar (October 2020)

“Conducting an Investigation Based on Legal/Regulatory Demands,” LeadingAge California 2020 Virtual Conference & Exposition (October 2020)

“Employment and Regulatory Implications in the Age of COVID-19,” California Association of Health Facilities Summer Symposium (July 2020)

“LGBT Considerations in Senior Living,” 69th Annual California Association of Health Facilities Convention Conference (November 2019)

“Navigating the Transfer/Discharge Process,” LeadingAge California Annual Conference (May 2019)

“The Dynamics of Disputing Federal Deficiencies”, California Association of Health Facilities Annual Conference (November 2018)

“Phase 2 Requirements of Participation,” California Association of Health Facilities Delta Stockton Branch (April 2018)

“Phase 2 of Requirements of Participation,” Golden Gate Association of Health Facilities (January 2018)

“Independent Informal Dispute Resolutions,” California Association of Health Facilities Annual Conference (November 2017)

Honors & Awards

Chambers and Partners USA, Health Care

Professional Affiliations

California Society for Healthcare Attorneys, Member

American Health Lawyers Association, Member

California Association Medical Staff Services, Member

LeadingAge California, Member

California Association of Health Facilities, GR Legal Subcommittee, Member

Bar Association of San Francisco, Member

Academic Distinctions

Hastings Law Journal, Writer

Thurston Society, Member

Education

J.D., *magna cum laude* UC Law San Francisco (Formerly UC Hastings) (2009)

B.A., *magna cum laude* California Polytechnic State University (2004)

Admissions and Courts

California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida