



**Renee M. Howard**  
Shareholder  
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Renee is experienced in representing a wide range of health care providers and suppliers, including hospitals and health systems, academic medical centers, physicians, imaging centers, and medical suppliers and distributors. She has represented health care clients in litigation and government investigations implicating the federal False Claims Act, the federal Anti-Kickback Statute and physician self-referral (“Stark”) laws, state Medicaid issues, and health care licensing matters. Renee also assists clients with internal investigations of allegations of fraud or other noncompliance with state or federal health care laws, and responding to Medicare, Medicaid and third party payor audits. Renee regularly advises clients on Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and payment issues, structuring financial relationships under fraud and abuse and self-referral laws, and other health care compliance matters.

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, P.S. (2006 – present)

Jones Day, Washington, D.C., Associate, Health Care Practice Group (2000 – 2005)

Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn, Detroit, MI, Associate, Health Care Practice Group (1999-2000)

#### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- American Health Lawyers Association
- Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys
- American Bar Association, Health Law Section

#### **REPRESENTATIVE CASES**

*Perry v. Rado*, 504 F. Supp. 2d 1043 (E.D. Wash. 2007), *affirmed* 2009 WL 2562739 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. Aug. 20, 2009) Represented hospital and physician defendants in hospital peer review antitrust action by obstetrician/gynecologist. Obtained dismissal of complaint, which was upheld by the Ninth Circuit.

*California ex rel. [UNDER SEAL] v. [UNDER SEAL]* (2009) Represented California subacute care facility in action brought under California False Claims Act; obtained state declination of intervention and dismissal of action.

*Washington State Pharmacy Ass’n v. Gregoire*, 2009 WL 1259632 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 31, 2009) Represented pharmacy associations and individual pharmacies in action against state Medicaid

agency; obtained temporary restraining order enjoining reduction in Medicaid pharmacy reimbursement.

*Columbia Basin Hematology & Oncology, LLC v. Chenal* (Benton County May 2009)  
Represented oncology practice in successful action to enforce covenants not to compete against departing shareholder and employed physicians.

*United States ex rel. [UNDER SEAL] v. UNDER SEAL* (W.D. Wash. April 17, 2009)  
Represented provider of geriatric psychiatric services in *qui tam* action; obtained government declination of intervention and dismissal of case.

*Robert Wood Johnson Univ. Hosp. v. Thompson*, 2004 WL 3210732 (D.N.J. April 15, 2004)  
Obtained permanent injunction shutting down CMS Medicare demonstration project as unlawful.

*In re Cardiac Devices Qui Tam Litigation* (D. Conn.) Represented two teaching hospitals accused of defrauding Medicare by billing for procedures allegedly involving non-FDA approved cardiac devices.

*United States ex rel. King v. Aventis Pharmaceuticals* (N.D. Tex. 2005) Obtained a dismissal of *qui tam* action filed against 40 pharmaceutical companies alleging False Claims Act violations based on alleged FDA regulatory violations.

#### **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

RAC Audits: A Field Guide  
Washington / Oregon MGMA Annual Meeting  
Seattle, WA— forthcoming 4/10

Fraud and Abuse Update  
Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys Annual Meeting  
Vancouver, B.C.— November 2009

Poor Prognosis for Diagnostic Arrangements? The Effect of Recent Regulatory Changes  
HFMA Washington / Alaska Chapter Annual Meeting  
Cle Elum, WA —September 2008

Medicare Reimbursement Update  
Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys Spring Meeting  
Seattle, WA —May 2008

Witten, J. and Howard, R., *The Coming of Competitive Bidding for Medicare DME Reimbursement*, MX Magazine, Sept./Oct. 2004

*OIG Spotlight on Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation*, Jones Day Compliance Adviser, April 2004

*OIG to Scrutinize Suspect Contractual Joint Ventures*, Jones Day Compliance Adviser, Sept. 2003

*Medicare Outlier Payments for Outpatient Services Also Under Scrutiny*, Jones Day Compliance Adviser, Sept. 2003

*OIG Focus on One-Day Inpatients and Combined Admissions*, Jones Day Compliance Adviser, Nov. 2002

*Regulatory Attention to Use of Physician Queries in Medical Records Coding*, Jones Day Compliance Adviser, April 2002

*OIG Issues New Advisory Opinion on Gainsharing Reversing July 1999 Special Advisory Bulletin*, Jones Day Compliance Adviser, March 2001

#### **EDUCATION**

- Notre Dame Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*
  - ◆ Executive Articles Editor, Notre Dame Law Review
- University of Notre Dame, B.A., *magna cum laude*

#### **BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

Washington State Bar Association

District of Columbia Bar

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

United States District Court for the Western District of Washington