



Heather O. Berchem

Partner

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**MURTHA
CULLINA**

Education:

Boston University School of Law (J.D., 1994)

University of California at Berkeley (B.A., 1991)

Description:

Heather Berchem serves as Chair of the firm's Regulatory Department, Long-Term Care Practice Group and a member of the Health Care and Information Security and Privacy Practice Groups.

Heather Berchem advises nursing homes, assisted living communities, CCRCs, hospitals, and home health care and hospice agencies on a wide range of regulatory, compliance, risk management and reimbursement issues. Her practice includes assisting clients in both Connecticut and Massachusetts with licensure; certificates of need; changes of ownership; Medicare and Medicaid audits and appeals; informal dispute resolution and other survey and certification issues; HIPAA compliance; investigation and reporting of security breaches; contract and policy drafting and review; developing and implementing corporate compliance programs; and responding to subpoenas and investigations by federal and state agencies.

Heather serves as counsel to the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities and the Connecticut Assisted Living Association. She serves on the American Health Care Association's National Legal Committee, is a contributing author of Fifty State Survey of Certificate of Need and Licensure: Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Home Health, and Hospice and a co-author of the "Assisted Living Communities and Continuing Care Retirement Communities" chapter in The Post-Acute Care Handbook: Regulatory, Risk and Compliance Issues, both published by the American Health Lawyers Association. Heather has lectured on a wide variety of long-term care and health care topics both at the state and national level. She also served as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the American Health Lawyers Association's ("AHLA") LTC-SIR Advisor. Heather is listed as a leading healthcare lawyer in Chambers USA, Chambers & Partners-Publishing (ChambersandPartners.com) and in Connecticut Super Lawyers®.

Heather received her B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and her law degree from Boston University School of Law. Prior to joining the firm in 1997, she was an associate at Schwartz, Shaw & Griffith in Boston, MA, where she handled health care criminal defense matters. Heather is admitted to practice in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Practices & Industries:

- Long-Term Care
- Health Care

Bar & Court Admissions:

- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Federal District Court, District of Massachusetts

Memberships:

- Connecticut Bar Association

- Massachusetts Bar Association
- American Health Lawyers Association
- Connecticut Health Lawyers Association
- Member, American Health Care Association's National Legal Committee
- Murtha Cullina Executive Committee, 2016 - 2020

Recognition:

- Listed as leading healthcare lawyer in Chambers USA, Chambers & Partners-Publishing (Chambers.com)
- Listed in [The Best Lawyers in America®](#) as 2021 Lawyer of the Year in the area of Health Care Law (Copyright 2020 by Woodward/White, Inc., Aiken, SC)
- Listed in [The Best Lawyers in America®](#) in the area of Health Care Law since 2017 (Copyright 2015 by Woodward/White, Inc., Aiken, SC)
- Holds an AV® Preeminent™ Peer Rating from [Martindale-Hubbell](#)
- Listed in [Connecticut Super Lawyers®](#) in the area of Health Care (Super Lawyers is a registered trademark of Key Professional Media, Inc.)
- James W. Cooper Life Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation

Publications:

- Quoted, [Masonicare sees opportunity to reposition as pandemic continues to batter nursing home sector](#), Hartford Business Journal
- Contributing author of "Fifty State Survey of Certificate of Need and Licensure: Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Home Health, and Hospice." American Health Lawyers Association
- Co-author of the "Assisted Living Communities and Continuing Care Retirement Communities" chapter in "The Post-Acute Care Handbook: Regulatory, Risk and Compliance Issues." American Health Lawyers Association.