

Cassie Gawron Sikorski

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Overview

Cassie helps healthcare organizations navigate complex transactions and regulatory challenges, with a particular focus on the rapidly-evolving behavioral health sector. She delivers practical, business-minded solutions that help clients stay compliant, expand their programming and market share, close deals efficiently, and advance their mission of delivering quality care.

Her work spans a wide range of healthcare organizations and provider types including hospitals and healthcare centers, physician practices, individual clinicians, residential care centers and facilities serving youth and adolescents. Cassie's experience also extends to providers in anesthesiology, physical and occupational therapy, nephrology, women's health, and skilled nursing. She is especially recognized for her depth in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, where she regularly handles transactions involving provider portfolios, contracting and employment/1099 matters, as well as corporate practice of medicine and structuring. Additionally, she advises behavioral health providers-including crisis centers, HCBS programs, substance use treatment facilities and other specialized providers-on licensing and compliance and ongoing regulatory counseling. Further, Cassie has expertise in HIPAA and privacy compliance, including Part 2 legal guidance for substance use disorder records.

Cassie advises healthcare providers on compliance and reimbursement issues with significant white-collar fraud risk, including internal investigations and matters arising under federal and state fraud and abuse laws. She counsels clients on structuring compliant billing and payment practices, responding to audit findings, and mitigating exposure under the False Claims Act, Anti-Kickback Statute, and related regulatory frameworks. Cassie regularly counsels clients through all stages of state and federal audits and appeals process, including responding to records requests and TPE audits, as well as handling CMS payment denials through all stages of appeal, including successfully representing clients at ALJ Hearings. She also has extensive experience with commercial insurer appeals. She advises healthcare payors on complex licensing and insurance matters, providing strategic counsel on mergers and acquisitions, value-based contracting and compliance with state and federal requirements. She has extensive experience guiding clients through Medicare and Medicaid regulations, advising on Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement marketing compliance, exclusion or payment suspension, and related regulatory issues.

Representative Matters

- Secured the complete dismissal of all criminal charges against a major California hospice provider in a California healthcare fraud prosecution alleging more than $7 million in fraudulent hospice billing.
- Medicare Audits regarding billing and coding practices, including for psychological evaluation and provision of skilled nursing facilities.
- Advise on Sober Living/Recovery Residence operations and accreditation in Ohio and New Jersey.
- Negotiated and drafted value-based and risk contracts between payors and healthcare providers, including contracts for nephrology practices.
- Supported Seller in acquisition of behavioral health provider for sale of ABA service line in California and Massachusetts.
- Represented private equity sponsor in its simultaneous acquisitions of an oncology practice service provider and a group purchasing organization.
- Provide compliance services for ABA provider for entry into new markets, including advising on corporate practice of medicine for BCBAs in various states.
- Represented Buyer in acquisition of mental health inpatient and outpatient facilities in New York.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of Notre Dame Law School, 2019, J.D., *magna cum laude*
  - President, Women's Legal Forum
  - Treasurer, Health Law Society
  - *Journal of International and Comparative Law*
  - Church, State, and Society Fellow
  - 1L Representative
  - Moot Court Board, Jessup Team
- University of Washington, 2014, B.A., Law, Societies & Justice; Medical Anthropology & Global Health, *magna cum laude*
  - Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
  - Alpha Delta Pi Sorority
  - President, Order of Omega Honor Society
  - Mortar Board Senior Honor Society

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

Memberships

- Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys
- American Health Lawyers Association

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, Illinois Super Lawyers – Rising Star, 2023-2025

News & Insights

- Benesch Secures Full Dismissal of All Criminal Charges Against CarePlus Hospice Services Owners in Major California Healthcare Fraud Prosecution
  August 6, 2026 | Press Releases
- Colorado Enacts Comprehensive Licensing Requirements for Applied Behavior Analysis Practitioners and Clinics
  July 28, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights

- Heightened Scrutiny of Medicaid-Funded ABA Services-Key Takeaways for Providers
  March 12, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- 16 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- OIG Finds Significant Improper Medicaid Payments for ABA Services in Wisconsin and Indiana, Signaling Greater Enforcement Efforts for ABA on the Horizon
  August 18, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- New Final Rules for Telemedicine Prescribing: Extending Telemedicine Flexibilities and What Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Providers Need to Know
  February 10, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- 17 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  January 23, 2025 | Press Releases
- 16 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  January 25, 2024 | Press Releases
- 2024 Outlook: Behavioral Health Trends
  January 16, 2024 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Requirements Related to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act
  August 25, 2023 | Client Alerts & Insights

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- New Final Part 2 Regulations | Cassie Gawron Sikorski
  June 13, 2024 | Speaking Engagement
- Young Professionals Panel: Trends in Behavioral Health | Cassie Gawron Sikorski
  March 18, 2024 | Speaking Engagement
- Health Technology CLE: Trends for 2023
  July 26, 2023 | Firm Events
- YPs of Behavioral Health | Cassie Gawron Sikorski
  May 15, 2023 | Speaking Engagement