



6th Annual Health Legal Update Conference

GAIN INSIGHTS TO EFFECTIVELY NAVIGATE THE EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HEALTH LAW

August 2, 2024

Preciosa Ballroom @ The Royal Sonesta San Juan Hotel (Isla Verde),
Carolina, Puerto Rico

6.25 hr. Continuing Education Credits: ADSS, Physicians, Attorneys

(Professions requested for credits are subject to the approval of their respective examining boards.)

8:00am - 8:45am

Registration

8:45am – 9:00am

Welcome

Jaime Plá Cortés, MHA
Executive President
Puerto Rico Hospital Association

Moderator: Marie Carmen Muntaner Esq. LLM – Legal Advisor - Puerto Rico Hospital Association

9:00am – 9:40am

High Rocket Verdicts in Medical Malpractice: Why are Juries Awarding Huge Medical Malpractice Verdicts?

Mary Grady Walsh, J.D.
Vice President of Claims
MedPro Group

9:30am – 10:20am

Medical Malpractice in Puerto Rico: ... Where We are and What to Expect

Roberto J Torres Antommattei, B.A., J.D., LL.M
Professor
School of Law
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico

10:20am – 11:30am

Providing Guidelines for The Responsible Use of AI in Healthcare (There will be a Q&A session)

Brian Anderson, MD
Chief Executive Officer
Coalition for Health AI (CHAI)

11:30am – 12:00m

Updated Legislation Efforts from Puerto Rico Hospital Association

José S. Rosado, MHSA, FACHE
President of the Board of Directors
Puerto Rico Hospital Association

Carlos A. Santiago Rosario, MHSA, JD, LL.M, FACHE, CHC
President-Elect, Board of Directors
Puerto Rico Hospital Association

1:00pm – 1:00pm

Lunch

Unveiling Healthcare Fraud and Abuse: Regulators Battle Against Misconduct

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Luis Freire Borges, Esq.
Executive Director Puerto Rico
Medicaid Fraud Control Unit
Department of Justice of Puerto Rico

José Luis Soto
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
United States Department of Health & Human
& Human - Office of Inspector General
Office of Investigations Puerto Rico Field Office
(PR & USVI Operations)

Brenda Rosado Aponte, Esq.
Prosecutor Medicaid Control Fraud Unit
Department of Justice of Puerto Rico

Labor Law Update

2:00pm – 2:45pm

Jorge C. Pizarro García, Esq.
Labor Lawyer
Pizarro & Gonzalez, LLC.

María Elisa Echenique-Arana, Esq.
Labor Lawyer
Pizarro & González

Navigating Federal and State Legislation Compliance: Guidelines for Hospitals and Educational Centers

Moderator: Marie Carmen Muntaner Esq. LLM, Legal Advisor Puerto Rico Hospital Association

3:00pm – 3:45PM

Coral M. Rivera Torres, Esq. LLM
In House Counsel
Servicios de Salud Episcopales Inc.

Belinda L. Toro, LLM, MHSA, CPHRM, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer
Doctors' Center Hospital

Moraima Torres Toro, JD
Legal Advisor
Hospital Damas

José Escobar, Esq. CHC
Director of Legal Affairs
Sistema de Salud Menonita

Applying Clinical Bioethics in a Hospital

3:45pm – 4:30pm

Miglisia L. Capó Suria, Esq. LLM
VP Legal Affairs
Metro Pavia Health System

4:45pm

Networking & Cocktail

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Marie Carmen Muntaner Esq. LLM
Legal Advisor
Puerto Rico Hospital Association

Muntaner is an outstanding professional with a solid academic background, including a Cum Laude bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Puerto Rico, a Magna Cum Laude Juris Doctor from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, and a Summa Cum Laude Master of Health Law from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law. With over 19 years of experience in health law, she has been the president and founder of MM & Associates, LLC since 2013, a legal firm that provides defense and advice to healthcare providers, serving over 20 companies and their compliance officers, in-house legal department and Boards.



Mary Grady Walsh, J.D.
Vice President of Claims
MedPro Group

Mary Grady was named AVP of Claims in 2021 after leading MPG Southeast Claims team since 2018. She collaborates with divisional managers and claims consultants in the Southeast, Southwest, and Mid-Atlantic regions to manage ongoing litigation. Mary has extensive experience analyzing complex medical and legal issues, which she applies to claim evaluations. She joined MedPro Group in 2015 after spending 16 years as a trial attorney in Southeast Pennsylvania, trying 20 cases to verdict and representing hundreds of practitioners. She also argued cases before the PA Superior and Supreme Courts. Mary earned her bachelor's degree in English and Journalism from James Madison University and her Juris Doctor from The Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University, where she was part of the National Trial Team.



Roberto J Torres Antommattei, B.A., J.D., LL.M
Professor
School of Law
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico

Attorney Roberto J. Torres Antommattei holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1985. He also holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1988. In May 1992, he completed his Master of Laws (LL.M.) at the University of Pennsylvania. On January 20, 1989, he was admitted to practice law in Puerto Rico. In 1990, he was admitted to the Federal Court for the District of Puerto Rico, and in 1991 to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Attorney Torres Antommattei began his professional career as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Judge Antonio S. Negrón García in the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. He later worked at the prestigious firm Fiddler, González & Rodríguez in Hato Rey. Since 1994, he has maintained his private practice in the city of Yauco and serves as a Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law, where he currently holds the position of Associate Professor and teaches the courses of Torts and Civil Procedure.



Brian Anderson, MD
Chief Executive Officer
Coalition for Health AI (CHAI)

Dr. Brian Anderson is the Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Health AI (CHAI), a non-profit coalition he co-founded in 2021. CHAI is focused on developing a set of consensus-driven guidelines and best practices for Responsible AI in Health, as well as supporting the ability to independently test and validate AI for safety and effectiveness. Prior to leading CHAI, Dr. Anderson was the Chief Digital Health Physician at MITRE, where he led research and development efforts across major strategic initiatives in digital health alongside industry partners and the U. S. Government. He was responsible for leading much of MITRE's work during the COVID-19 pandemic, working closely with the White House COVID Task Force, as well as Operation Warp Speed. He also led MITRE's largest R&D effort in Oncology, focusing on the initial development of mCODE and the use of AI in more efficient and inclusive clinical trial design. Dr. Anderson is an internationally recognized author and expert in digital health, and is regularly engaged as a speaker on digital health innovation, health standards development, clinical decision support systems, and interoperability. Prior to MITRE, Anderson led the Informatics and Network Medicine Division at athenahealth. He has also served on several national, and international, health information technology committees in partnership with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).



José S. Rosado, MHSA, FACHE
President of the Board of Directors
Puerto Rico Hospital Association

With over 17 years of experience in healthcare, Mr. Rosado has held key roles in operations, administration, and financial management in various healthcare organizations. He has led the unprecedented transformation of Bayamón Medical Campus as Executive Director of Bayamón Medical Center, Bayamón Heart and Lung Institute, and Puerto Rico Women and Children's Hospital over the past four years. His outstanding work in hospital management and recognition in the healthcare industry have led him to become President-Elect of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rico Hospital Association and to receive the ACHE Senior Level Healthcare Executive Award. He holds a master's degree in health services administration and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE).



Carlos A. Santiago Rosario, MHSA, JD, LL.M, FACHE, CHC
President-Elect, Board of Directors
Puerto Rico Hospital Association

Attorney Santiago holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a Juris Doctor from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. He also earned a master's degree in health law from Loyola University in Chicago. He is a licensed Health Services Administrator in Puerto Rico, a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and certified in healthcare compliance by the American Compliance Board. He is the president-elect of the Puerto Rico Hospital Association, where he served as legal advisor and chair of the legislation committee, contributing to the development of Regulation 9184 of the Department of Health. With over 28 years of experience in the healthcare industry, he has held significant positions at Triple Salud, MCS, TOLIC, Sanitas USA, and Auxilio Mutuo Hospital, including Chief Legal Officer, Director of Risk Management, Director of the Partner Plan, and Executive Director of Auxilio Salud Plus. Currently, he is the Vice President of Operations at the Metro Pavia Health System in Puerto Rico. Additionally, Attorney Santiago is a part-time professor in the Master's in Health Law program at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, teaching courses such as Introduction to Health Law, Hospital Regulation, Labor Law in the Healthcare Industry, and Accounting and Administration for Lawyers.



Brenda Rosado Aponte, Esq.
Executive Director Puerto Rico
Medicaid Fraud Control Unit
Department of Justice of Puerto Rico

Attorney Brenda Rosado Aponte holds a Doctorate in Literature combined with Law from the Center for Advanced Studies of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, awarded in 2016. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's in arts with a concentration in Pre-Law from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras in May 1997. During her studies, she was part of the Honors Program, Golden Key National Honor Society, Dean's List, and was recognized in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges. She served as a Teaching Assistant in the General Studies faculty. In 1998, she began her law studies at UPR's School of Law, earning her Juris Doctor in May 2001. As a law student, she interned at Roca & Juyent in Barcelona, contributed to the UPR Law Review, and was on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Law Students. She passed the General Bar Exam in November 2001.



Jose Luis Soto
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
United States Department of Health & Human Services
Office of Inspector General
Office of Investigations
Puerto Rico Field Office (PR & USVI Operations)

Soto serves as Assistant Special Agent in Charge at Health and Human Services (HHS, Office of Inspector General OIG) with the U.S. Department of State, in charge of the Office of Investigations and Operations for the Puerto Rico Field Office and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). For the past twelve years, Soto has been responsible for investigating healthcare fraud in Medicare and Medicaid programs in Puerto Rico and the USVI. Before starting his career with HHS-OIG, he worked as an Investigative Support Specialist at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative for various multinational pharmaceutical companies in Puerto Rico and the state of Massachusetts. He has over 18 years of experience working in the healthcare industry. Soto holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.



Jorge C. Pizarro García, Esq.
Labor Lawyer
Pizarro & Gonzalez, LLC.

Pizarro, lawyer and experienced speaker at the national and international levels. He has provided training in the USA, Santo Domingo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Spain, among other places. He is a frequent speaker at events of various associations, including the Puerto Rico Hospital Association, the Puerto Rico Employers Committee, the Puerto Rico Health Management Association, SHRM, and the College of Health Services Administrators. With over 30 years of experience as a labor lawyer, he has specialized in the impact of new technologies in the workplace.



María Elisa Echenique-Arana, Esq.

Labor Lawyer
Pizarro & González, LLC

Echenique Arana obtained a Magna Cum Laude bachelor's degree in art history from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, and a Magna Cum Laude Juris Doctor from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. During her studies, she represented minors with special education needs and served as an Academic Senator. She received the Microjuris Research Award and represented Puerto Rico at international conferences in Prague and Las Vegas. Currently, she is a lawyer at Pizarro & González, where she specializes in labor and employment issues such as wrongful termination, discrimination, and sexual harassment. She represents employers before state and federal courts and forums and is admitted to the Federal Court for the District of Puerto Rico and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Additionally, she offers seminars on

employment law to clients and management personnel.



Coral M. Rivera Torres, Esq. LLM

In House Counsel
Servicios de Salud Episcopales Inc.

Attorney Rivera holds a bachelor's degree in arts with a concentration in Political Science and a Juris Doctor from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law, as well as a Master's in Health Law from Loyola University Chicago. With over fifteen years of legal practice, she has experience in corporate law, health law, labor law, and civil litigation. For the past six years, she has advised affiliated companies of the Episcopal San Lucas Health System on various legal matters and supported their risk management programs. She is a speaker for continuing education activities for the Medical Faculty, employees, officers, and directors of the Episcopal San Lucas Health System. Additionally, she has been a part-time professor, teaching Introduction to Health Law and Healthcare Fraud at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law.



Belinda L. Toro, LLM, MHSA, CPHRM, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer
Doctors' Center Hospital

Attorney Toro Palacios earned her bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Biology and her Juris Doctor from the University of Puerto Rico. After completing her studies, she opened her legal practice specializing in family law, torts, and bankruptcy, representing Banco Popular de Puerto Rico in consumer cases in Federal Bankruptcy Court. Her passion for health led her to specialize further, taking courses and seminars on HIV, HIPAA, corporate compliance, medical malpractice, and bioethics. She has advised hospitals and healthcare facilities, focusing her practice on hospitals, medical malpractice, insurance, risk management, medical staff, contracts, privileges, and credentials. She holds certifications in Negotiations from the Mendoza College of Business, Risk Management from Inter American University, and is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management (CP HRM) from the American Hospital Association. She also has master's degrees in health services administration and health law from the University of Puerto Rico and Loyola University Chicago, respectively. Since 2016, she has been the Executive Director of Doctors' Center Hospital. She is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, College of Health Services Administrators, American Health Lawyers Association, and the American Bar Association, admitted to practice in Puerto Rico and Federal Courts. She also serves on the Health Services Administrators Licensing Board and participates in Puerto Rico's Medicaid Grant Program 'Money Follows the People' initiative for long-term care.



Moraima Torres Toro, JD

Legal Advisor
Hospital Damas

Attorney Torres Toro, , graduated from the Pontifical Catholic University of PR with a bachelor's degree in Social Deviation and Criminology, followed by a Juris Doctor, earning distinguished student honors in both fields. Admitted to practice law and as a notary in 1993 and 1994, respectively, she worked for around 13 years in private law firms specializing in torts, medical malpractice, and insurance. Since 2011, she has been serving as in-house legal advisor for Hospital Damas, Inc., handling daily affairs, contracts, and administrative matters before the Department of Health. She is a firm believer in respecting human rights and dignity as the essence of patient

care, values that align with the institution's mission.



José Escobar, Esq. CHC

Director of Legal Affairs
Hospital General Menonita

José Escobar Machín graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Inter American University School of Law in 2009. He began his career as an associate at Arroyo & Monrouzeau, working until 2017 exclusively on health law, including medical malpractice cases. After a brief period at Sepulvado, Maldonado & Couret, he started his own practice. Since 2010, he has provided services to the Mennonite Health System, leading transactions for various hospitals. He joined the Mennonite Health System in March 2019 and began directing its Legal Division in March 2021. Passionate about soccer, he is an active leader in the scouting movement in Puerto Rico, aiming to benefit all children on the island and forge future leaders.



Miglisa L. Capó Suria, Esq. LLM

VP Legal Affairs
Metro Pavia Health System

Miglisa L. Capó-Suria has headed the legal department of this conglomerate of 13 hospitals and other ancillary facilities for nearly 25 years. At Metro Pavia, she also leads the corporate risk management committee and is a frequent speaker for lawyers, physicians and other clinicians on health law, risk management and bioethics. She holds a bachelor's degree from Rider University, a law degree from Inter American University, a master's in health law (LLM) from Loyola University and a Human Research certification from the University of Miami. Ms. Capó-Suria recently finished the courses leading to a doctorate degree in Clinical Bioethics and Mission Leadership from Loyola University School of Medicine in Chicago and is now working on her capstones (thesis). Admitted to practice in Puerto Rico, the Federal

District Court, Bankruptcy Court, and the First Circuit Court of Appeals, she is a member of the American Bar Association, Health Law Division and the American Health Law Association, for which she was a speaker at the 2018 Chicago convention.