



Alma L. Saravia

Of Counsel

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Scores of New Jersey healthcare professionals have turned to **Alma L. Saravia** for counsel on issues ranging from licensure and disciplinary matters, including those before the Board of Medical Examiners, to complex litigation matters. Her clients include physicians, nurses, chiropractors, hospitals, medical staffs, nursing homes and other healthcare organizations. She also frequently defends healthcare providers facing insurance fraud investigations or demands for repayment by insurers.

Ms. Saravia is highly regarded in the field of healthcare law, both in the public and private sector. She is a former member of the Board of Medical Examiners and Ms. Saravia is one of the State's most experienced attorneys in representing healthcare professionals before the licensing boards.

Working alongside legislators and government officials, Ms. Saravia was actively involved in shaping several aspects of New Jersey's new adult-use cannabis law.

Since the legalization of medical marijuana under New Jersey's Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act in 2010, she has been a guiding force for physicians and their rights under the law. She provides regulatory guidance for alternative treatment centers and adult-use applicants in the cannabis industry. Her extensive experience and relationships with the members of the New Jersey Legislature and governmental agencies have proven beneficial to her practice, and Ms. Saravia is considered a go-to legal source to members of the media for commentary on the New Jersey medical marijuana and adult-use cannabis laws. Most recently, she was named to the *Insider NJ* Top 100 Cannabis Power List, which highlights the top influential voices in the cannabis debate in New Jersey.

"Alma now serves another acquaintance, a nurse who needed support during a difficult moment and as usual, she has provided just that. I have been struck by [the] professional excellence and personal doggedness that she has brought to the fight on behalf of our friends and acquaintances. She may not be aware but those efforts have made the difference between ruin and redemption for individuals." H.R., Founder and Strategic Advisor

Practice Areas

Healthcare Law

Cannabis Law

Government Relations and
Regulatory Law

Litigation

Business and Corporate Law

Industry Groups

Healthcare

Women's Advisory Group

Admissions

New Jersey

U.S. District Court for the
District of New Jersey

U.S. Court of Appeals for
the Third Circuit

Education

- Rutgers University School of Law-Camden, J.D.
- Rutgers University, M.S.W., Social Policy Analysis
- Rutgers University, B.A.

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Throughout her career, she has affected and effected on the progress of healthcare law in the state as a lobbyist, as the former chairperson of and director of various governmental agencies, and as the catalyst for important legislative changes. Among other significant pieces of legislation, she is credited with spearheading the enactment of the state's joint negotiation law, which allowed physicians and dentists to engage in joint negotiations with managed care entities. Ms. Saravia also served as special counsel for clients in drafting healthcare regulations and legislation.

A frequent lecturer and author, Ms. Saravia regularly presents on topics including telemedicine credentialing and privileging, medical staff bylaws, physician representation and The Affordable Care Act. She co-authored an article for the *New Jersey Law Journal* focused on New Jersey's recent "crack down" on physicians who allegedly over prescribe pain medications and it highlighted strategies and thoughts on policy issues. She also co-authored a chapter in the Health Care Dispute Resolution Manual titled, "External Review of Health Plan Decisions." Ms. Saravia is a long-time columnist for the Camden County Medical Society "Bulletin."

An advocate for women, Ms. Saravia serves on the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women's in Political Leadership Committee. She authored an article on "Life Lessons in Leadership" to coincide with the Senator Wynona M. Lipman lecture by Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to President Barack Obama. She is also on the Board of Directors of Pam's List, a New Jersey fundraising network dedicated to promoting opportunities for democratic women candidates for office.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Negotiated numerous Consent Orders with healthcare licensing boards
- Represented physicians in medical staff credentialing matters
- Counseled hospitals' medical staffs
- Defended providers facing insurance fraud investigations or demands for repayment by insurers
- Appealed regulations unlawfully restricting certified registered nurse anesthetists' right to practice
- Served as special counsel in the drafting of health care regulations and legislation
- Appealed the imposition of medical protocols imposed upon physicians treating patients injured in an automobile accident

HONORS & AWARDS

- Recipient of Burlington County Bar Association Women in the Professions Awardee, 2024
- Named to *Insider NJ's* Insider 100: Cannabis Power List, 2019 & 2021, 2022
- Top Attorney List - Healthcare, *SJ Magazine*, 2010, 2014, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022 & 2023
- Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, *New Jersey Law Journal*, 2019
- 2006 Burlington County Outstanding Women of the Year Award, Category of Law
- Named "Awesome Attorney," *South Jersey Magazine*, 2004

A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolades are based can be found here. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association
 - Member, Medical Staff, Credentialing and Peer Review Committee
- Burlington County Bar Association
- Camden County Bar Association
 - Former Member, Health Care Law Committee
- New Jersey State Bar Association
 - Former Chairperson, Health and Hospital Law Section

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University
 - Member, Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women's Political Leadership Advisory Committee
- Pam's List
 - Member, Board of Directors
- Friends of the Library Company of Burlington
 - President, Board of Directors
- Rutgers Alfredo Santiago Endowed Scholarship's Leadership Award, Rutgers/LEAP Academy Charter Schools, 2012
- Institute for Nursing, 2005 EPIC Award Winner
- Family Service Organization (Mount Holly, NJ) - Listed on "Wall of Recognition" and room in facility bears name

ARTICLES & ALERTS

NJEDA Establishes Diversity Finance Advisory Board

Legal Alert (September 28, 2023)

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy Signs Emergency Legislation into Law Providing Greater Access to Healthcare During the COVID-19 Emergency and Issues Directives

Legal Alert (March 24, 2020)

Expediting Expungements To Clear Pot Possession Records Is Laudable: Implementation May Still Present Challenges

NJ Cannabis Insider (March 28, 2019)

Governor Phil Murphy Sets Bold New Direction for Regulating Medical Marijuana –Legislature Considers Significant Changes to the Law

Legal Alert (August 6, 2018)

New Law Mandates NJ Dept. of Health Licensure of Physician Owned One-Room Surgical Centers

Legal Alert (February 6, 2018)

Continued

Determining Whether a Physician is Competent to Practice Medicine is Complex
MD Magazine (September 11, 2017)

New Jersey Becomes First State In The Nation To Mandate That Physicians And Other Prescribers Must Discuss
Addiction Risks With Minor Patients
Legal Alert (February 10, 2017)

Resolving Physician Disputes with Hospital Medical Staffs Through the Use of Confidential Settlement
Agreements
MedStaff News (December 2016)

NJ Doctors Face Increased Prosecutions for 'Indiscriminate' Prescribing of Pain Meds
New Jersey Law Journal (February 23, 2015)

New Jersey's Physicians Face Conflicting Messages When It Comes To Treating Patients With Pain
The Bulletin, Camden County Medical Society, Vol. 14, #2 (December 22, 2014)

Physicians and Patients Will Benefit from New Legislation on End-Of-Life Care Decisions
The Bulletin, Camden County Medical Society, Vol. 13, #3 (Summer 2012)

Life Lessons in Leadership: Remembering Senator Wynona M. Lipman the "Lioness" of New Jersey's Senate
(April 26, 2011)

Assemblyman Herb Conaway, MD, JD, Chairman of the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee Provides
Overview of His Efforts to Implement Electronic Medical Records and Health Information Technology
The Bulletin, Camden County Medical Society, vol. 13, #1 (Fall 2010)

Health Information Technology Initiatives Move Forward in New Jersey
Medical Society of New Jersey (2010)

Governor Enacts Amendments to "Codey Act" – Single Operating-Room Facilities Must be Registered and
Certified: Will Overlapping Requirements Cause Problems for Physicians
The Bulletin, Camden County Medical Society, vol. 12, #2 (Spring 2009)

Should a Physician's Medical License be Permanently Revoked or Suspended for Three Years if He or She Violates
Proposed Legislation Creating New Medical Waste Anti-dumping Laws?
The Bulletin, Camden County Medical Society, vol. 12, #1 (Winter 2009)

What Physicians Need to Know About Developments in the Practices of Advanced Practice Nurses, Physician
Assistants, Physical Therapists and Chiropractors
The Bulletin, Camden County Medical Society, vol. 11, #3 (Summer 2008)

New Jersey Legislature Debates Legislation Permitting Physician Referrals to Ambulatory Surgical Centers and
Surgical Practices in Which They Own an Interest
The Bulletin, Camden County Medical Society, vol. 11, #2 (Spring 2008)

Governor Corzine Expands Health Care Coverage for Children
The Bulletin, Camden County Medical Society, vol. 11, #1 (Winter 2008)

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Understanding, Forecasting and Challenging Penalties Issued by the Board of Medical Examiners

New Jersey Lawyer Magazine (February 2007)

The Physician Disciplinary Process

New Jersey Law Journal, vol. CLXXXII, no. 11, index 969 (December 12, 2005)

Evaluating a Physician's Competency

New Jersey Law Journal, vol. CLXXVIII, no. 11, index 1050 (December 13, 2004)

Women and Minorities in the Legal Profession

New Jersey Law Journal (November 3, 2003)

New Legislation Could Foster the Filing of Fewer Medical Malpractice Complaints

New Jersey Law Journal, vol. CLXXI, no. 7, index 516 (February 10, 2003)