



Navigating Modern Healthcare:
LEGAL CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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KEYNOTE

Dr. Chad A. Perlyn, M.D., Ph.D., MBA



Dr. Chad Perlyn is a distinguished authority in health care administration and plastic and craniofacial surgery, with extensive expertise in medical education, clinical leadership, and global surgical equity. As the executive leader of Nova Southeastern University's health care network, he oversees eight colleges dedicated to advancing medical education, translational research, and patient-centered care. He currently serves as the Dean of the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine, where he plays a critical role in shaping the institution's strategic vision and academic excellence.

Prior to his tenure at NSU, Dr. Perlyn held key leadership positions at Nicklaus Children's Health System, culminating in his role as senior vice president of surgical services, community health, and corporate responsibility. Under his leadership, the physician workforce expanded by 50%, significantly strengthening the system's clinical capacity and operational efficiency. He spearheaded major institutional advancements, including the conceptualization and execution of the \$180 million Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower, a transformative facility that has redefined pediatric surgical care in South Florida. His leadership also encompassed strategic growth initiatives, patient access optimization, and interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance care coordination and clinical outcomes.

Dr. Perlyn is a committed advocate for global surgical equity, actively collaborating with international organizations to improve surgical access and quality of care in underserved regions. His work with the G4 Alliance, Partners in Health, and other humanitarian initiatives has facilitated sustainable surgical interventions in resource-limited settings. He maintains an active pediatric plastic surgery practice, specializing in congenital anomalies, and is a prolific contributor to medical literature, frequently publishing and lecturing on advancements in surgical care and health care administration.

His academic credentials reflect a broad and rigorous intellectual foundation. Dr. Perlyn earned his M.D. from the University of Miami, pursued intensive surgical training at Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and completed a doctorate in craniofacial molecular biology at the University of Oxford as an American College of Surgeons fellow. Additionally, he holds an M.B.A. in health care education from the University of Miami and a bachelor's degree in English literature from Northwestern University, underscoring his multidisciplinary expertise.

A Miami native, Dr. Perlyn is passionate about endurance athletics, ocean exploration, and documentary photography, pursuits that reflect his commitment to both personal and professional excellence.

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MEET THE PANELISTS



Courtney Tito, Esq.

Courtney is a board-certified healthcare attorney supporting healthcare providers nationally through payor reimbursement disputes and audits, government investigations and regulatory and compliance matters. She has experience in federal and private payor audits and disputes, reimbursement issues, enrollment revocations, payment suspensions, internal investigations, compliance and regulatory counseling, and in responding to federal subpoenas and civil investigative demands. She advises clients in both federal and state matters. She is board certified in health law by The Florida Bar.

Courtney also counsels clients on licensing, compliance, CLIA standards, state and federal fraud and abuse rules and regulations, and telehealth matters. She advises clients regarding direct-to-consumer issues.

From 2006 to 2007, Courtney served as a staff attorney for the Public International Law and Policy Group in Baghdad, Iraq, where she worked with legislators and the Federal Supreme Court advising senior ranking officials on drafting and implementing legislation, amending current legislation and amending the constitution.

Courtney presents advice by breaking down complex regulatory and statutory concepts into easy to understand and implement options that consider a client's risk profile and business needs. She is practical and wants to present solutions, where possible, that mitigate risk and further the provider's interests and business goals.

Courtney spends her free time with her family, which includes her husband, two boys and two dogs. She loves hiking and reading and spending time outdoors, often at her kids' various sporting events.

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MEET THE PANELISTS



Jacqueline Grady, Esq.

Bringing over two decades of experience, Jacqueline Grady blends her legal experience with common sense and uncommon wisdom. With skyrocketing health care costs, Ms. Grady and her firm, Grady Legal, PA, are fighting on behalf of individuals and companies to challenge the inefficiencies in the healthcare system. Finally, companies and individuals finally have an advocate to assist them with fighting the predatory billing and collection practices of the healthcare system. She is a recognized leader and was invited by the White House to attend a roundtable discussion regarding the impact of medical debt on Americans. This visit resulted in a

new rule being implemented barring medical debt from being calculated as part of credit scores. She has also had a case featured in the Wall Street Journal.

Her approach to health care evolved from her extensive labor and employment and commercial litigation background. She has represented companies and individuals in wage and hours claims, discrimination actions as well as breach of contract and fraud claims. It is with this background that she recognized that laws exist in every industry to protect consumers and business from unscrupulous business practices. That is, every industry except for health care.

She founded Grady Legal, PA in 2016 to offer boutique legal services to select clients. At the core of her firm is a commitment to communication, transparency, and personal attention. One of Ms. Grady's defining legal characteristics is her creative problem solving and ability to forge her own path.

Ms. Grady has been a member of the Florida Bar since 2003. Prior to that, she was an attorney in Pennsylvania and has been licensed in Pennsylvania since 2000. She attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Law where she received the Student Leadership Alumni award which is awarded annually to one University student. After her graduation, she clerked for the Honorable Judge Kim R. Gibson, currently a Federal Judge in the Western District Court of Pennsylvania.

Following her clerkship, Ms. Grady worked in a Pittsburgh firm handling employment discrimination cases. During her employment, she appeared on behalf of a client in front a judicial panel that was specially convened under a never before used provision of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Outside of law, Ms. Grady is the Vice President of Operations at the Laura Riding Jackson Foundation and is a published poet. She is also an avid bicyclist and is a devoted mom to her pitbull rescue.

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Loretta Sheffield,

MBA, MSN, RN, FACHE



Loretta Sheffield is a dynamic healthcare executive with over 30 years of experience in hospital operations management, business development, and care coordination. Based in Miami, FL, she has a proven track record of driving sustained revenue growth and excellence in patient care across multi-site healthcare settings. In her current role as Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness &

Planning at Miami Regional University, Loretta leads strategic planning initiatives, oversees accreditation processes, and ensures that data-driven insights guide institutional decision-making.

Previously, as Market CEO and Vice President of Care Coordination at Select Medical Corporation, she consistently exceeded EBITDA targets, secured prestigious awards for quality and safety, and built high-performing teams in both acute and long-term care environments. Her earlier leadership roles—ranging from hospital administration at Trinity Home Health & Hospice to strategic marketing at major healthcare organizations—demonstrate her ability to build strategic alliances, optimize operational efficiencies, and foster a physician-friendly culture.

A dedicated lifelong learner and leader, Loretta is currently a Doctoral Candidate in Education at the University of Miami. She also holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Miami Regional University, an MBA from LeTourneau University, and a BA in Business from Black Hills State University. Her commitment to excellence is further reflected in her service on the Board of Directors for the South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association and the Professional Advisory Board at Miami Regional University.

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MEET THE PANELISTS

Robert E. Paradela, Esq.



Robert E. Paradela is a Managing Partner at Wicker Smith and leads the firm's Fort Lauderdale office, where he focuses on medical malpractice, auto negligence, and bad faith claims. With decades of experience, he has defended major hospital systems, national auto insurers, and Fortune 500 companies in complex medical litigation. His expertise in handling high-stakes medical claims with significant economic damages has made him a sought-after trial attorney in both state and federal courts across South Florida.

Beyond litigation, Mr. Paradela plays a critical role in shaping legal strategies for healthcare providers. He serves on the national counsel advisory panel for the largest hospital system in the United States, offering insight into high-exposure medical cases nationwide. His leadership extends to overseeing one of the firm's largest offices, ensuring effective case management and client representation in complex healthcare disputes.

Mr. Paradela's legal foundation is reinforced by a strong academic background, holding undergraduate degrees in communications and political science, an MBA, and a law degree from Florida State University. His early commitment to public service included work with the Florida legislature, the First District Court of Appeals, and the Florida Attorney General's Office. This experience has contributed to his deep understanding of healthcare policy and regulatory issues in medical litigation.

An active member of the legal community, Mr. Paradela is involved in the American Bar Association, the Broward County Bar Association, the South Florida Medical Claims Council, and the American Board of Trial Advocates. When not advocating for his clients, he enjoys golfing, spending time with family, and relaxing at the beach.

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Andrew Loewenstein, Esq.



Andrew Loewenstein is a West Palm Beach litigation attorney who concentrates his practice in complex healthcare, business, and labor and employment matters. Mr. Loewenstein also represents insureds and underwriters in connection with transactional risk products, including the issuances of representations and warranties (R&W) insurance policies. Mr. Loewenstein employs innovative strategies to prosecute multistate fraud schemes, represent management's interests in labor and employment disputes, and navigate high-stakes business litigation. His clients range from startups to Fortune

500 companies, and include major insurers, financial institutions and a variety of business interests. Mr. Loewenstein primarily practices in Florida and Georgia.

Mr. Loewenstein represents property and casualty (P&C) and health insurers in litigations brought against providers who fraudulently obtained healthcare benefits and insurance payments. These matters are predominately litigated in federal court and are filed only after an extensive investigation that reveals deceptive or fraudulent conduct. Mr. Loewenstein assists clients in a number of industries to develop innovative methods for investigating and identifying fraudulent conduct. Mr. Loewenstein also represents insurers in post-payment reviews and pre-suit mediation in an effort to resolve some matters before suit is filed. He also defends health insurers in Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) litigation, including the investigation of fraud in the submission of associated claims and filing counter claims, where appropriate.

Mr. Loewenstein represents management's interests in labor and employment disputes, including defending claims brought under Title VII (race, national origin, religion and sex discrimination), Florida Civil Rights Act (FCRA), Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), and related state and federal employment laws. He also has significant experience with eDiscovery in state and federal courts, particularly in the context of litigating misappropriation of trade secrets against former employees. Mr. Loewenstein has prosecuted and defended preliminary injunctions in trade secret and breach of non-compete litigation matters.

While in law school, Mr. Loewenstein served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Beth Bloom in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court for Miami Dade County. Mr. Loewenstein also served as an intern in the U.S. Senate and was the president of a multinational nonprofit organization before becoming an attorney.

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Matthew Espino, Esq.

Matthew Espino is a health law attorney specializing in provider-payor reimbursement reimbursement and contract disputes, currently serving as Counsel and Director of Litigation Matters at Jones Health Law, P.A. in Miami, Florida. He earned his Juris Doctor from Florida International University College of Law in 2021.

Mr. Espino's experience encompasses a broad spectrum of legal services, including regulatory compliance, health care litigation, and collaborating with advocacy associations on healthcare legislative bills

Mr. Espino authored "The Case for a Qualified Dignity of Risk Liability Framework for Long-Term Care Facilities," published in the American Bar Association's Health eSource. This article delves into the legal considerations surrounding liability protections for long-term care and nursing facilities, including long-term acute care hospitals, advocating for a balanced approach that safeguards both patient autonomy and institutional accountability.

In addition to his written scholarship, Mr. Espino actively engages in professional discourse through presentations and seminars. Notable recent presentations conducted by Mr. Espino include: a presentation elucidating Medicare Advantage Organizations' use of prior authorization to deny and delay Medicare Advantage enrollees' access to post-acute care for the ABA Health Law Section Post-Acute Care Task Force; and an in-depth update on the No Surprises Act analyzing the federal baseline established for balance billing and its implications for health care providers and patients alike for the Florida Bar Health Law Section.

Mr. Espino's involvement with the Health Law Section further exemplifies his commitment to the advancement of health law. His contributions to the section include organizing educational programs and disseminating critical information on emerging health law issues, thereby fostering a well-informed legal community.

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MEET THE PANELISTS



Shirley Sharon, Esq.

Shirley Sharon is the General Counsel for CDR Health. Born out of the COVID-19 Pandemic, CDR specializes in emergency and disaster healthcare solutions geared toward government agencies. In its blue skies' operations, the company offers traditional health, wellness, and aesthetic services at its Tallahassee based clinic and med spa.

In her role, Ms. Sharon serves as the Compliance and Privacy Officer, navigating an intricate tapestry of healthcare laws and regulations. She simultaneously oversees the vast range of legal matters that arise at a privately held company, including corporate governance, risk management, business transactions, litigation, and employment law.

Prior to this role, Ms. Sharon was a staff attorney in the Florida Senate where she gained invaluable insight into the political and legislative process. Ms. Sharon's, legal career began as a South Florida litigator, immediately after obtaining her Juris Doctor, Cum Laude, from Nova Southeastern University. While in law school Ms. Sharon was an active member of the Law Review, Moot Court, and Trial Association. At graduation, Ms. Sharon was inducted into the Order of the Barristers in recognition of her dedication to courtroom advocacy.

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Christopher E. Gottfried, Esq.

Christopher E. Gottfried focuses his practice on health care, as well as administrative and regulatory matters. Christopher represents clients such as executives at large physician practice groups and hospital chains, compounding pharmacies, managed care organizations, ambulatory surgical centers, and home health agencies. He has experience working with numerous federal and state governmental agencies and handles matters concerning the federal and Florida Anti-Kickback Statutes, the federal Stark

Law, the federal and Florida False Claims Act, the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act, Florida's Patient Brokering Act, and various hospital and physician billing laws and regulations.

Christopher's experience includes working with health care organizations to navigate the various clinical trial regulations from product inception through post-product marketing. Christopher has assisted various pharmaceutical, medical device, dietary supplements, and cosmetic manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in their clinical trial and regulatory matters.

Christopher handles various regulatory matters for a wide range of health care entities. From data privacy and HIPAA to fraud and abuse, Christopher has assisted organizations of various sizes through complex health care regulatory schemes.

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Raul G. Ordonez III, Esq.



Raul G. Ordonez III is a distinguished legal and compliance professional, currently serving as Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer at Jackson Health System, a premier healthcare network in Miami, Florida. In this capacity, he leads the development and implementation of enterprise-wide compliance strategies, ensuring regulatory adherence and fostering a culture of accountability and ethical governance. His expertise in healthcare law and risk mitigation plays a critical role in safeguarding institutional integrity while enhancing patient care outcomes.

With extensive experience in healthcare compliance and legal affairs, Ordonez possesses a deep understanding of the complex regulatory landscape governing healthcare institutions. His work focuses on navigating federal and state healthcare regulations, mitigating organizational risk, and aligning compliance initiatives with broader institutional goals. His strategic leadership ensures that Jackson Health System not only meets but exceeds regulatory expectations in an evolving legal environment.

Prior to his tenure at Jackson Health System, Ordonez held key roles in legal and compliance sectors, where he developed a sophisticated approach to corporate governance, regulatory oversight, and institutional risk management. His contributions to the field have garnered industry recognition, including a feature in *Compliance Today*, the Health Care Compliance Association's flagship publication, which highlighted his commitment to advancing patient care through robust compliance frameworks.

Ordonez's leadership exemplifies the intersection of law, ethics, and healthcare administration. His work continues to shape regulatory best practices, reinforcing the critical role of compliance in sustaining high-quality, legally sound healthcare operations.

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MEET THE PANELISTS

Scott Mager, Esq.



Scott Mager is a nationally recognized attorney with a wealth of experience in health law. He has successfully litigated a variety of health-related cases at the State, Federal, and Supreme Court levels, including the internationally covered "Baby T" case. He has also served as counsel on a variety of complex health law matters, including regulatory compliance, reimbursement disputes, and medical malpractice claims.

Mr. Mager has a deep understanding of the healthcare industry and is a recognized expert on health law issues. He has represented a wide range of healthcare providers, including hospitals, physicians, and other healthcare professionals. He is also a frequent speaker and writer on health law topics.

Mr. Mager's experience with 100+ law firms throughout the country, provides him with a broad perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing healthcare providers today. He is also a skilled mediator and arbitrator, and has helped many parties resolve their healthcare disputes without the need for costly and time-consuming litigation.

Mr. Mager is a passionate advocate for his clients and is committed to providing them with the highest quality legal representation. He is also a dedicated member of the community and is actively involved in a number of charitable organizations.

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