

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Administrative & Regulatory Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Appellate Litigation
- Asset Protection & Business Planning
- Banking
- Bankruptcy & Creditor's Rights
- Business Law & Commercial Litigation
- Condemnation Law
- Constitutional Law
- Construction Law
- Corporate & Commercial Law
- Election, Campaign, & Political Law
- Employment & Labor Law
- Family Law
- Healthcare Professionals Advocacy
- Human Resources Support
- Insurance Litigation
- Landlord/Tenant
- Personal Injury
- Professional Liability Defense
- Public Entity Law
- Public Interest & Nonprofit Organizations
- Real Estate Law
- Tax Audits & Litigation
- Trust & Probate Litigation
- Workers' Compensation

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ISSUE NO.9

THE HEALTHCARE Professionals Legal CHECK-UP

Why Providers Turn to Experienced Counsel

WHEN STANDARD OF CARE IS CHALLENGED

Medical malpractice claims rarely arise from clear misconduct. More often, they result from complex clinical decisions that are later questioned through hindsight, expert disagreement, or adverse outcomes.

At Hutchison & Steffen, defending healthcare professionals in these circumstances is not occasional work. It is a core part of our daily practice.

When Your Career Is On the Line, Experience Matters

Every day, we defend healthcare providers facing some of the most stressful moments of their careers. Medical malpractice cases are not just about medicine.

They are about:

- Complex statutory and procedural requirements
- The difference between hindsight criticism and the actual standard of care
- Sophisticated causation analysis
- Regulatory exposure beyond the lawsuit itself
- Protecting your license, credentials, and professional reputation

MEDICAL

MALPRACTICE

DEFENSE

IS WHAT WE DO ■

Why Experience Matters in These Cases

Medical malpractice defense is a highly specialized area of practice. Successfully defending these cases requires a deep understanding of how plaintiffs' experts construct and frame their opinions, how medical records are dissected and analyzed, and how clinical decision-making is evaluated — both in the courtroom and before regulatory bodies.



Our work regularly includes:

- ▣ **Defense of healthcare providers in litigation**
 - ▣ **Coordinating with professional liability insurers at the outset of claims**
 - ▣ **Defending hospitals and long-term care facilities in regulatory and litigation matters**
 - ▣ **Representing providers in licensing board and regulatory proceedings**
- ▣ **Outside general counsel services for healthcare providers and professional groups**

Early Involvement Makes a Difference

Providers often seek legal guidance after a complaint, or board inquiry has already been issued. In our experience, early involvement allows for a more deliberate defense strategy — one that protects both professional reputation and long-term practice interests.

▣ ABOUT THE FIRM

Hutchison & Steffen regularly represents healthcare professionals and healthcare organizations in medical malpractice defense, professional liability matters, and licensing and board proceedings. We work closely with providers when claims arise — and often before issues escalate.

More information about our Healthcare Professionals Advocacy group can be found at HUTCHLEGAL.COM.



COURTNEY CHRISTOPHER

Courtney Christopher is a partner with the Firm. Throughout her career, she has defended physicians and healthcare professionals against claims of medical malpractice and professional negligence for over fourteen years. Courtney has a strong knowledge of what it takes to successfully defend a malpractice case all the way through trial.

Courtney's practice is concentrated on the defense of healthcare professionals, including healthcare providers, their professional corporations, practice groups and clinics, and long-term care and skilled nursing facilities.

Courtney regularly represents providers and entities in regulatory matters before their professional licensing boards. She has successfully assisted and defended providers before the various healthcare provider boards in Nevada.

Beyond litigation, Courtney represents providers and healthcare entities in regulatory and disciplinary proceedings before Nevada licensing boards. She also advises practitioners on credentialing and privileging matters and has served as a neutral Hearing Officer in healthcare credentialing disputes and fair hearing proceedings.

Courtney is a graduate of University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Thomas Jefferson School of Law (cum laude, 2011). She grew up in a small town in Missouri, but Las Vegas has been her home since 2004. She has received repeated recognition as a Super Lawyers "Rising Star." Courtney is licensed to practice across state and federal courts in Nevada.

CANDACE C. HERLING



Candace C. Herling is a partner with the Firm whose practice is devoted to defending healthcare providers and healthcare entities in medical malpractice and professional liability matters. She represents hospitals, long-term care and skilled nursing facilities, healthcare professionals, and related entities in complex negligence claims, guiding clients strategically from pre-suit investigation through trial.

Candace brings a distinctive, firsthand understanding of the operational realities of long-term care. Having grown up working in her family's assisted living facility, she developed practical knowledge of the regulatory pressures, staffing challenges, and day-to-day demands that facilities face. That experience provides valuable perspective and informs her defense strategy in every case.

In addition to litigation, Candace regularly represents healthcare professionals in matters before their licensing and regulatory boards. She understands that defending a claim often requires protecting not only the lawsuit itself, but also the provider's license, reputation, and long-term career.

Candace earned a B.A. in Communication (cum laude, Dean's List) and an M.A.T. in Curriculum and Instruction from La Sierra University before obtaining her J.D. (cum laude) from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. She has been repeatedly recognized as a Super Lawyers "Rising Star" and is licensed to practice in all Nevada state and federal courts.