



## WAKABA Y. TESSIER

### PARTNER

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Wakaba Tessier focuses her practice on health care law. She is highly skilled at navigating the complex health care regulatory landscape particularly in the area of compliance at both the state and federal levels across a variety of health care issues, privacy and data concerns, third-party payor audits and inquires, and day-to-day operational challenges.

She advises clients ranging from individual physicians, physician groups, hospital systems and other ancillary health care providers, such as specialty pharmacies, clinical laboratories, behavioral health care providers and educational institutions. Wakaba is well-versed in pharmacy operations, clinical research agreements, physician compensation arrangements, telemedicine, federal and state reimbursement issues, and medical staff privileging and credentialing. She is knowledgeable about a wide range of issues facing health care clients and regularly advises on matters related to the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, Stark Law and the False Claims Act, and related implications for emerging companies in health care mergers and acquisitions and financing transactions.

Wakaba also has extensive experience in privacy law and counsels clients in sensitive and highly regulated issues, including health information confidentiality, data breaches, mental health records, multistate recordkeeping and data transfer, and big data strategies for the creation and implementation of data warehouses.

### BACKGROUND

Prior to joining Armstrong Teasdale, Wakaba was executive vice president and general counsel at a life sciences company based in Syracuse, New York. She previously served as a health care associate and partner at several large multinational firms.

Before earning her master's and law degrees, Wakaba was a research associate at a boutique health care consulting company in the Boston area.

### EDUCATION

- Washington University School of Law (J.D., 2009)
  - Washington University Law Review (Managing Editor)
- Valparaiso University (M.S., 2008)
  - International Commerce and Policy
- Wellesley College (B.A., 2002)

### SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Corporate

Emerging Companies

Mergers and Acquisitions

Outside Corporate Counsel

Data Innovation, Security and Privacy

Health Care and Life Sciences

Education

### ADMISSIONS

Missouri

Kansas

- Psychology
- Japanese Studies

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Law360 Health Editorial Advisory Board (2020-2021)

## **ACCOLADES**

- On Being a Lawyer of Color, Midwest Region Hot List (2014)
- Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers®, Rising Star (2018-19)
- Ingram's 40 Under Forty (2018)

## **LANGUAGES**

- Japanese

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **Data Warehousing System and Related Documents for Leading Behavioral Health Non-Profit**

Assisted a leading non-profit behavioral health care organization in operationalizing its data warehouse, which included the drafting of the Data Use Agreement and all related policies and policies. This model is being used as the framework nationwide.

### **Policies, Template Documents for Multi-Specialty Physician Group Training Program**

Created processes and template documents for clinical affiliations for student and resident training on behalf of a large multi-specialty physician group.

### **Resolution of Overpayment Claims for Higher Ed Institution**

Worked with a higher education institution on resolving alleged overpayment claims by commercial third-party payors related to athletic trainer service.

### **Risk Assessment and Planning for Dental School Opening**

Advised client on risks associated with various business models pertaining to the opening of a dental clinic for its new dental school.

### **Sale of Grocery Store Chain to Health System**

Represented a grocery store chain in a major metropolitan area in the sale of all of its operating retail pharmacies to a local health system.

### **Operations and Deal Counsel for Nationwide Specialty Pharmacy**

Assisted a nationwide specialty pharmacy on compliance and licensure matters and led the sale of same to a national company building patient assistance programs for pharmaceutical companies.

## **THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

January 19, 2023

**Important Pharmacy Developments and Deadlines from FDA, FTC**

May/June 2021

**Where Does it Begin and How to Stop it: Opportunities to Prevent “Bad” Physicians**

Missouri Medicine

July 2019

**Mandatory Blood Testing: When can police compel a health provider to draw a patient's blood to determine blood levels of alcohol or other intoxicants?**

Missouri Medicine

July 2018

**Continuing Obligations Following the Unexpected Death of a Physician: Things to Keep in Mind**

Missouri Medicine