

Debra A. Weinrich

Partner

Philadelphia, PA
t: 215.864.6260
f: 215.789.7512



Debbie draws on her clinical nursing experience to provide unique perspective and understanding in the defense of clients facing complex medical malpractice claims.

OVERVIEW

Drawing on her many years of clinical nursing experience, Debbie Weinrich focuses her practice on defending complex medical malpractice claims, many of which involve catastrophic injuries which implicate the possibility of excess verdicts and related coverage. She is responsible for developing and preparing all aspects of the defenses on behalf of a variety of healthcare clients, including physicians, advanced practice providers, intraoperative neuromonitoring specialists, perfusionists, nurses and other healthcare personnel, as well as hospitals, multi-site healthcare systems and physicians' practice groups. She often represents private healthcare companies which contract with other healthcare institutions including hospitals and long-term care facilities. In addition to medical malpractice matters, Debbie's practice includes an assortment of general litigation, such as construction litigation, premises liability and other personal injury matters. She has tried numerous cases to verdict.

Debbie practiced as a registered nurse for nearly 10 years, principally in the area of Maternal-Newborn Services and was certified in inpatient obstetrics. She also has administrative experience. This background provides a distinct advantage in the investigation, discovery and trial phases of litigation, not only substantively, but also from an emotional standpoint for the practitioners experiencing litigation.

While her Labor & Delivery experience makes her uniquely qualified to handle complex obstetrical matters, and she has extensive experience handling such cases, she does not limit her practice only to cases involving catastrophic birth injuries. To the contrary, Debbie is experienced in handling cases throughout the healthcare spectrum such as those stemming from emergency care, cardiac care and procedures, neuro and other surgical care, as well as wound care.

Debbie has also developed significant experience with issues concerning electronic medical records and is often asked to speak on the topic, including about assorted aspects of healthcare documentation. She is a Certified HIPAA

PRACTICES

Catastrophic/Excess Liability
Cyber Law and Data Protection
Healthcare
Litigation

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
New Jersey
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

EDUCATION

Rutgers University School of Law - Camden, JD, 2004
Thomas Jefferson University, BSN, 1993

MEMBERSHIPS

American Society for Healthcare Risk Management
Lawyers Club of Philadelphia
Philadelphia Area Society for Healthcare Risk Management



Privacy Security Expert (CHPSE), White and Williams' HIPAA Officer and a member of its Information Security/Privacy Office Team.

Debbie uses technology creatively to increase efficiency and hold down costs when handling cases and understands the import of financial and other business concerns affecting decision making during the litigation process. She focuses not only on protecting her clients in current cases but also on minimizing future risk and potential liability by identifying areas of possible improvement.

RECOGNITION AND INVOLVEMENT

In 2019, Debbie was honored as a Distinguished Advocate by the Support Center for Child Advocates for her pro bono service.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Defendant Hospitalist Prevails In Wrongful Death Case
9.21.15

Achieved settlements in cases involving multiple defendants where her clients have made no payment or contribution

Resolved many matters via Alternative Dispute Resolution formats including cases associated with catastrophic long-term injuries involving obstetric, oncologic, surgical, neurosurgical, emergency, gastrointestinal, neonatology, radiology and other specialty areas of practice

Obtained a defense verdict in Centre County, PA for a hospitalist alleged to have caused the death of a man due to respiratory failure alleged to have occurred as a result of medication toxicity

Obtained a defense verdict in a case brought against an internal medicine specialist and a pulmonologist practicing at a major teaching hospital in Philadelphia; plaintiffs alleged a delay in diagnosis and treatment of an infection causing death

Obtained a defense verdict in a case naming several midwives and nursing personnel in a suburban hospital, where it was alleged that the providers' failure to ensure earlier delivery of an infant led to its death

Obtained a defense verdict in Philadelphia County where it was alleged that an obstetrician improperly "stripped" a patient's membranes which was alleged to have caused a neonatal Group Beta Strep infections and resultant catastrophic injuries

Successful defense of an obstetrician in Lackawanna County, PA where it was alleged that obstetrician's failure to perform a cesarean section caused a brachial plexus injury and long term developmental injuries including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Won motions having her clients dismissed from matters during the early phases of litigation

IN THE NEWS

Larry Bistany and Debra Weinrich Honored by the Support Center for Child Advocates for Volunteer Service
4.11.19



White and Williams Announces the Election of Five Lawyers to the Partnership and the Promotion of Five Associates to Counsel
1.14.16

EVENTS

Wound Documentation: Avoiding the "Pressure" and Litigation "Injuries"
Caring Communities/Peace Church Risk Retention Group and ECRI Webinar, 8.18.20

Documentation Can Save the Day
Philadelphia Area Society for Healthcare Risk Management (Plymouth Meeting, PA), 6.28.18

Selecting a Jury for a Birth Injury Case: Plaintiff and Defense Perspectives and Strategies
17th Annual Advanced Forum on Obstetric Malpractice Claims (Philadelphia, PA), 6.26.18

Overcoming the Challenges Associated with Electronic Medical Records, Patient Portals and Audit Trails in Obstetrics Practice
17th Annual Advanced Forum on Obstetric Malpractice Claims (Philadelphia, PA), 6.26.18

Protecting Your Present and Future: Legal Issues, Being a Witness, EMR Documentation
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society Annual Conference (Philadelphia, PA), 6.5.18

Joint and Several Liability in 2018
Pennsylvania Bar Institute (Philadelphia, PA), 4.27.18

Ways to Use Deposition Testimony and Videotaped Depositions
Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Taking and Defending Depositions, 11.2.15

Are You Ready for Tech "Savvy" Providers and Patients?
2015 Healthcare Summit, 5.7.15

PUBLICATIONS

It's "Personal"— An Expansion of What Qualifies As "Personal Information" Under Pennsylvania's Data Breach Notification Law
Cyber Law and Data Protection Alert, 12.6.22

BREAKING NEWS: PA Supreme Court Amends Venue Rule for Medical Malpractice Matters
Healthcare Alert, 8.25.22

Are Telehealth Laws Here to Stay? A Survey of Legislation in NJ, DE, NY, PA and MA
Healthcare Alert, 3.30.21

Recent Case Impacts HIPAA and HITECH Act Penalties
Healthcare Industry Alert, 2.1.21

Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act Reintroduced to Congress
Healthcare Alert, 1.28.21

HITECH Act Amendment Offers New Incentive to Reduce Fines and Other Remedies

Cyber Law and Data Protection and Healthcare Alert, 1.8.21

Federal Advisory Warns Hospitals Facing "Increased and Imminent" Cyber Threat; 400 Hospitals Already Targeted

Cyber Law and Data Protection and Healthcare Alert, 10.30.20

Human Research in the COVID-19 World: Boundaries, Obligations and Guidance

Healthcare Alert, 4.20.20

HHS Office of Civil Rights Reinforces Preclusion of Discriminatory Treatment Denials

Healthcare Alert, 3.31.20

Fighting COVID-19 Across State Lines: Relaxing Provider Licensure and Renewal Requirements

Healthcare Alert, 3.25.20

COVID-19 Pandemic Relief for Healthcare Providers Participating in Quality Reporting Programs

Healthcare Alert, 3.25.20

Mere Disagreement or Knowing Falsehood: The Circuit Split on False Claims Act "Falsity"

Healthcare Alert, 3.11.20

Pennsylvania MCARE's Statute of Repose Declared Unconstitutional

Healthcare Alert, 11.7.19

CMS Finalizes Policies to Expand Telehealth Access for Patients

Healthcare Alert, 4.9.19

Legislation Introduced in Pennsylvania to Provide Nurse Practitioners Full Practice Authority

Healthcare Alert, 3.8.19

The Check is in the Mail – No Really it is!

Healthcare Talks, 5.10.17

Healthcare Providers Face Potential Civil Liability for Failing to Report Child Abuse

Healthcare Alert, 9.4.15