



Christine G. Savage

CO-CHAIR, GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE

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Christine Savage, Co-Chair of Choate's Government Enforcement and Compliance Group, regularly collaborates with a diverse range of healthcare services and life sciences companies to help them satisfy compliance obligations, protect reputations, deliver value, and ultimately facilitate their ability to focus on their patients or customers. Christine's 27 years of experience working internal investigations and managing government inquiries related to healthcare fraud help inform her approach to compliance and risk management projects.

As one of the few subject matter experts in the country, Christine is routinely called on to assist academic and clinical research institutions at all stages of the research cycle, from proposal to final close out. She provides legal counsel on contracting, ethical and human subjects protection oversight, effort reporting, and foreign influence issues, and helps craft investigative or disclosure plans in the face of identified problems or concerns. She had led multiple internal reviews related to conflicts of interest, foreign influence, and grants management concerns and resolved material findings with appropriate government agencies including NIH, NSF, OIG and DOJ.

Her work includes helping emerging life sciences companies develop and implement key compliance initiatives to put them on the right footing once they have a viable commercial product. She also collaborates with more established pharma and device companies to assess legal risks related to promotional activities, foundation and charity relationships, Open Payments requirements, and patient assistance programs.

Focus Areas

Private Equity and M&A

Corporate and
Specialty Areas

Admissions

- Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit

Representative Engagements

- Assisted a hospital in assessing and refunding overpayments associated with a series of identified physician billing and coding errors.
- Assisting university and teaching hospital clients address "foreign component" and potential financial conflict of interest concerns surfaced internally and facilitating self-disclosures to agencies where appropriate.
- Responding to NIH inquiries regarding suspected faculty ties to foreign countries for universities and teaching hospital clients.

- Developing risk management and compliance program strategies for university and teaching hospital clients to address potential undue foreign influence issues.
- Coordination of response to law enforcement investigations and internal investigations related to foreign influence in research, conflicts of interest, and conflicts of commitment for universities and teaching hospital clients.
- Representing academic medical center in connection with attempted theft of biological specimens from research laboratory.
- Representing a university in the investigation and voluntary self-disclosure of time and effort reporting issues involving a faculty member to DOJ and NIH and successfully resolving the matter with no damages multiplier.
- Assisted major pharmaceutical company in identifying and resolving material legal impediments (in several states) to its ability to market an FDA approved product for its intended use.
- Created a compliance program timeline for a pre-commercial pharmaceutical company and helped develop an appropriate Code of Conduct, HCP engagement policies, and Investigator-Initiated Trials processes.
- Represented a global pharmaceutical company in a multi-year, multi-faceted government investigation regarding its voluntary withdrawal of a product.
- Counseled an academic medical center regarding potential False Claims Act implications of alleged scientific misconduct.
- Advised the board of a regional medical center in connection with an investigation into activities by members of its senior management team.

Professional & Community Involvement

- Vice-Chair, UMass Amherst Foundation Board of Trustees
- Immediate Past Co-Chair, Beacon Hill Nursery School Board of Trustees
- Chair Emeritus, UMass Amherst College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean's Advisory Board
- Founding Member, UMass Club
- Former Co-Chair of Choate's Healthcare Group

Prior Civic Engagement:

- Member, BBA Health Law Steering Committee
- Trustee, Massachusetts Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation
- Member, Partners (now MassGeneral Brigham) Institutional Review Board