

Mara Sanders

Partner

sanders.mara@dorsey.com

Minneapolis – 612.492.5198



Mara Sanders is a strategic advisor to healthcare and life sciences companies, helping clients navigate complex regulatory environments to achieve business goals, structure compliant business arrangements, and defend against government fraud and abuse enforcement.

Mara brings a focused practice to one of healthcare law's most consequential intersections: where regulatory compliance, government enforcement, and transactional risk converge. She counsels hospitals, health systems, pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, digital health companies, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), and other life sciences organizations on the full spectrum of healthcare law—from day-to-day compliance questions to high-stakes government investigations.

At the core of Mara's practice is deep fluency in healthcare fraud and abuse laws, such as the Anti-Kickback Statute, Stark Law, False Claims Act (FCA), and Civil Monetary Penalties Law. She applies that knowledge across multiple contexts: advising on the regulatory dimensions of mergers and acquisitions, structuring compliant business models and compensation arrangements, assessing risk in new service lines or partnerships, navigating complex reimbursement frameworks, and representing clients in internal investigations and government enforcement actions brought by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and other federal and state regulators.

Mara's regulatory work extends to clinical research compliance, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations, and product pricing and reimbursement—giving clients a single point of counsel across the regulatory questions that arise as healthcare organizations evolve their care delivery and business models.

Select Experience

- Led the internal investigation and response to a civil investigative demand for a large health system in a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation arising from a qui

Education

- Columbia University School of Law (J.D., 2017)
 - James Kent Scholar
 - Editor in Chief, *A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual*
 - Staff Editor, *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*
- University of Chicago (B.A., 2012)
 - General and Department Honors

Bar Admissions

- New York
- Minnesota

tam action alleging that arrangements with contracted service providers violated the federal Anti-Kickback Statute and False Claims Act, resulting in DOJ's motion to dismiss the underlying qui tam action.

- Negotiated clinical trial agreements with academic medical centers and other large research organizations on behalf of research and development stage medical device manufacturers, refining informed consent forms and advising on regulatory and bioethics issues related to human subjects research to support the timely start of clinical studies.
- Represented a nationwide network of urgent care providers in defending qui tam lawsuits alleging that COVID-19-related billing practices violated the federal False Claims Act, resolving multiple lawsuits through settlement in matters with potential implications for provider billing practices nationwide.

Accolades

- *Best Lawyers® Ones to Watch in America*, Health Care Law, 2025-2026

Legal Writings

- *Applying Allina to the World of Escobar: Avoiding 'Traps, Zaps, and Zingers' in Medicare False Claims Actions*, 31 Health Matrix: Journal of Law and Medicine 155 (2021)
- *Sex, Drugs, and Advisory Committees: An Analysis of Pharmaceutical Industry Manipulation of FDA Vulnerability to Sociopolitical Influences on Matters of Women's Health*, 48 Columbia Human Rights Law Review 2 (2017).

Dorsey Health Law

July 13, 2026

Proposed CMS Rule Ramps Up Potential Medicare Fraud Administrative Remedies

July 11, 2024

The False Claims Act and the Anti-Kickback Statute: Causation, Materiality, and the Connection Between the Two

Insights

May 7, 2024

Healthcare Fraud: A World Beyond the Anti-Kickback Statute