



Emily L. Brinkman

(she/her)

Partner

San Francisco: 415.875.8482
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CAPABILITIES

Administrative Law

Litigation, Mediation,
Arbitration

Medical Staff Operations and
Disputes

Reproductive Health

COVID-19 / Public Health
Emergencies

Academic Medical Centers
and Teaching Hospitals

Hospitals and Health
Systems

Pharmacies

Physicians, Medical Groups,
Medical Foundations, and
Independent Practice
Associations (IPAs)

EDUCATION

Willamette University College
of Law, J.D., 2000

University of Nebraska, B.A.,
1995

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, 2002

Texas, 2024

“The through line of my work, whether it was for the State of California or my current medical staff clients, has always been ensuring patient safety. The highlight of my job is knowing I’m assisting my clients in that mission.”

Emily L. Brinkman has over 20 years of experience as a litigator and 12 years specifically advising healthcare providers and helping them comply with regulatory issues in the state of California. She joined Hooper, Lundy & Bookman near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Since then, she has helped hospitals navigate the pandemic by conducting legal research and answering their concerns on various issues such as religious exemptions for vaccination mandates, how to deal with COVID positive providers, and physician behavioral issues.

Emily has extensive experience litigating medical staff cases on behalf of hospitals throughout California. She collaborates with medical staff directors and other executives to manage issues regarding physician credentialing and privileging. Emily has represented medical staff in complex, multi-day hearings involving issues ranging from inappropriate behavior towards patients, to quality of care issues that result in disciplinary actions, from suspension to termination of privileges/credentials. Emily has also advised medical staff clients on peer review matters, credentialing of ambulatory surgical centers and providers in hospital clinics, responding to Medical Board subpoenas and request for interviews of hospital staff. She advises licensed medical providers on the legal reporting requirements to the Medical Board and National Practitioner Data Bank, including representing providers following allegations of failing to report. She also advises her medical staff clients about the impact of peer review privilege under Evidence Code 1157 as it relates to civil lawsuits and the Medical Board, including the impact of protections to confidentiality of Physician Well Being Committees.

Emily’s experience includes working as a Deputy Attorney General in the Health Quality Enforcement Section and the Correctional Law Section of the California Attorney General’s Office. In her role as Deputy Attorney General in the Health Quality Enforcement section, she represented several health care licensing boards, such as the California Medical Board, Podiatric Medical

Board of California, and Board of Psychology, in disciplinary actions against licensed providers. She also advised the licensing boards about investigations before bringing disciplinary action and provided training to other attorneys within the Health Quality Enforcement section. She started her legal career as a deputy district attorney, and has litigation experience in criminal, civil, and administrative hearings in both state and federal courts.

Besides advising medical staffs, using her 8 years of experience in representing the health care licensing boards, Emily also represents individual licensed providers before their respective licensing boards, from advising and assisting with the investigation to the disciplinary hearing itself. She assists in the application process of individuals seeking licensure, including post graduate training licenses and petitions for reinstatement.

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- California Academy of Attorneys for Healthcare Professionals
- California Association Medical Staff Services
- California Society for Healthcare Attorneys
- National Association of Medical Staff Services
- San Francisco Bar Association

News

- Podcast: Emily Brinkman was a Guest on Credentialing Chronicles
- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Elevates Alicia Macklin and Emily Brinkman
- Emily Brinkman, Rachel Zacharias, Aneliese Castro and Sheryl Xavier Published in Reuters and Westlaw Today
- Andrea Frey, Emily Brodtkin and Taryn Reid Published in Reuters, "Understanding standing with Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA"
- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Celebrates 35 Years!

Insights

- Highlights from the Medical Board of California 2024–2025 Annual Report
- Expansion of Evidence Code §1157 Effective January 1, 2025
- California Signs into Law Legislative Package Expanding Access and Protections for Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care
- California Enacts Legislative Package Expanding Protections and Access to Abortion Services
- California's Legislative Response to Dobbs and Its Implications for Medical Staffs

Events

- Emily Brinkman To Speak at CSHA
- Emily Brinkman To Speak at CAAHCP
- Emily Brinkman To Speak at CSHA
- Emily Brinkman & Stephanie Thompson To Speak at CAMSS Desert Chapter Annual Legal Conference
- Emily Brinkman and Jennifer Hansen to Speak at CAMSS 2025 Virtual Fall Conference