HUSCH BLACKWELL

Elliott Leigh Coward

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

An experienced healthcare attorney, Elliott represents hospitals, major health systems, large physician groups, and management services organizations in a wide variety of matters. She practices from Atlanta via our Link virtual office.

With more than a decade of experience in healthcare law, Elliott knows healthcare regulations inside and out and routinely advises clients on complex requirements and day-to-day compliance. Elliott routinely assists clients with government investigations including False Claims Act, EMTALA, and other accreditation investigations. She also assists with proactive compliance measures, advises on regulations, and conducts internal audits, helping clients stay ahead of regulatory changes. Elliott has also handled healthcare transactions and physician hospital alignments from the very beginning of her career, drawing on her sophisticated regulatory knowledge to ensure that these immensely complex transactions remain in line with all relevant regulations. In addition, she also oversees a smaller amount of administrative litigation such as Certificate of Need litigation

Healthcare law is more than a career for Elliott—it's been a part of life since childhood, thanks to a parent who practiced in the field. During law school, she worked in hospitals, and she has concentrated her practice on healthcare since earning her J.D. While her career originally focused on clients in Georgia and the Southeast, Elliott now serves healthcare organizations nationwide as part of Husch Blackwell's team.

Industry

Healthcare

Services

False Claims Act

Healthcare M&A, Joint Ventures, and Other Transactions

Healthcare Operations

Healthcare Regulatory & Compliance Counseling

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Clients appreciate Elliott's responsiveness, often noting how quickly emails and questions are answered. They also value her straightforward and practical approach: she's always focused on delivering advice and solutions that fit within a client's broader business and organizational goals.

Experience

- Defended and settled large False Claims Act matter for client working with the Department of Justice and several state administrative agencies.
- Obtained dismissal for failure to state of claim of non-intervened False Claims Act lawsuit in the Southern District of Georgia.
- Represented numerous clients in responding to government civil investigative demands and related investigations.
- Represented numerous clients in responding to EMTALA notices of deficiency and related appeal process.
- Assisted clients in establishing compliance programs from the ground up.
- Worked with multiple clients to conduct large internal audits and comply with federal repayment statutes.
- Worked with multiple clients to respond to and defend government contractor audits, including RAC and ZPIC audits.
- Settled large EMTALA matter for hospital client.
- Represented large healthcare client in acquisition of multiple radiation therapy centers in Georgia.
- Represented numerous clients in physician group acquisitions.

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Recognition

- *Chambers USA*
  - Healthcare, 2025-2026
  - Up & Coming/Associates to Watch, Healthcare, 2018-2024
- *The Best Lawyers In America®*
  - Health Care Law, 2023-2027
  - Ones to Watch, Healthcare Law, 2021

Education

- J.D., Emory University School of Law
- B.A., University of Chicago
  - with honors

Admissions

- Georgia
- North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

Community Leadership

Elliott serves on the board of Our House, an organization that provides a community healthcare clinic, early childhood education, and temporary housing for families with children. She has also served on the advisory committee of the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta since 2021.

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*Elliott is licensed in Georgia, practicing in Atlanta. Contact Elliott via email or phone for in-person/virtual meetings. Use the address 3550 Lenox Rd NE, Suite 2100, Atlanta, GA 30326, for mail/deliveries.

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