

RACHAEL NICOLE SIMS

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LEGAL COUNSEL

Poised to contribute strong background in health-care law to Health Co-op Associates

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- ◆ Energetic, team-focused health-care attorney with more than 14 years of legal experience, including paralegal and law-clerk background, and expertise in diverse areas of law.
- ◆ Motivated self-starter who assists in drafting hospital policies and advises on clinical ethics by serving on the ethics advisory and policy subcommittee of Veteran Affairs Capital Area Health Care System; well-versed in medical, legal, regulatory analysis/compliance in health-care and clinical-research ethics.
- ◆ Accomplished contributor experienced in case management, factual investigation, case development/preparation, litigation, pre-litigation, case analysis, and client advisory matters.
- ◆ Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communicator with a proven track record of forging relationships among stakeholders and performing well both independently and as a team member.
- ◆ Skilled legal researcher who also excels at computer-based and non-computer-based legal, technical, and scientific research.

AREAS OF LEGAL EXPERTISE

- ◆ Health-care law:
 - litigation
 - regulatory/reimbursement
 - fraud and abuse
 - false claims
 - Medicare/Medicaid compliance
 - employment
 - clinical ethics
 - human-subject research ethics
 - institutional ethics
 - corporate transactions in health care
- ◆ Intellectual Property:
 - trademark
 - copyright
 - patents
- ◆ Product Liability
- ◆ Environmental Law
- ◆ Business/Transactional
- ◆ Admiralty/Maritime
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Medical Negligence
- ◆ Family Law
- ◆ Labor and Employment:
 - discrimination
 - EEOC complaints
 - union grievances
 - labor arbitrations
 - enforceability of non-compete covenants
 - employment contracts
- ◆ Construction Defect
- ◆ Personal Injury
- ◆ Contract Disputes

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Attorney, Riley, Kiley & Rhett, P.S., Bethesda, MD, Feb. 2005 to Present

- ◆ Practice health-care law, representing academic medical center.
- ◆ Handle Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement cases, as well as complex health-care litigation cases.
- ◆ Represent co-plaintiffs DC-area Protection and Advocacy System and RehabliCare Health System in complex mental-health law case government's failure to provide adequate community mental-health resources, funding to regional support networks, an adequate number of beds for patients committed under the Involuntary Treatment Act, and other issues; collaborate with in-house legal department of three-hospital group.
- ◆ Represent clients regarding employment-related issues that typically arise in hospital and medical center settings.
- ◆ Collaborate with hospital and regional medical center in-house legal departments on regulatory compliance cases.

Attorney, Zander & Schwartz, Silver Spring, MD, Dec. 2003 to Feb. 2005

- ◆ Drafted and responded to motions; prepared and responded to discovery related to a complex litigation case set for trial.
- ◆ Prepared experts and witnesses in fast-paced legal environment of firm dealing with construction defect, personal injury, and employment law.

Law Clerk, Potomac Port, Chevy Chase, MD, May 2000 to Dec. 2003

- ◆ Performed legal research and drafted legal memoranda regarding employment law, personal injury, contract disputes, trademark law, and environmental law issues.

Summer Law Clerk, U.S. Attorney's Office, Criminal and Civil Division, Washington, DC, Summer 1999

- ◆ Drafted legal memoranda, summary judgment motions, sentencing memoranda, and other documents.

Paralegal, Stover Associates, Seattle, WA, Jan. 1996 to April 1999

- ◆ Prepared witnesses for arbitrations and trials.
- ◆ Assisted with trial preparation and case development.
- ◆ Managed trial teams and performed case/data analysis.
- ◆ Drafted labor arbitration briefs and mediation memoranda.
- ◆ Prepared responses to EEOC charges and demand letters.
- ◆ Performed legal research and interviewed lay and expert witnesses.
- ◆ Prepared and responded to discovery requests and other pleadings, such as summary judgment motions.

Paralegal, Landis, Graham & Jones, LLP, Silver Spring, MD, Sept. 1993 to Jan. 1996

- ◆ Assisted attorneys with trial preparation in the areas of intellectual property, product liability, environmental, labor and employment, business/transactional, and admiralty.
- ◆ Performed legal, scientific, and general research.
- ◆ Analyzed complex data.
- ◆ Interviewed lay and expert witnesses.
- ◆ Wrote arbitration briefs and responses to EEOC charges.

Paralegal, Zilcher & Dunn, Washington, DC, March 1990 to Sept. 1993

- ◆ Managed teams on large construction litigation matters.
- ◆ Traveled extensively to assist clients and consult experts and local counsel with case analysis, claim management, and case preparation.
- ◆ Performed legal, medical, and general research in the areas of construction, product liability, and medical negligence.
- ◆ Prepared audit response letters and quarterly litigation reports.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

President and Founding Director, Educational ReachOut Network, Bethesda, MD, Sept. 1999 to Present

- ◆ Developed and incorporated nonprofit education access program dedicated to providing financially disadvantaged youth and adults with access to courses and educational opportunities aimed at helping students prepare for and succeed in higher education.
- ◆ Preside over all board meetings and perform executive-director functions.
- ◆ Coordinate all facets of the program, including curriculum development, teaching, training, volunteer management, staff recruiting, and grant writing.

Member, Ethics Advisory Committee and Policy Subcommittee, Veteran Affairs Capital Area Health Care System, Washington, DC, Jan. 2003 to Present

- ◆ Collaborate with other committee members to educate and advise the hospital, health-care providers, and other interested parties regarding ethical implications of health-care policy and practice issues.

EDUCATION and TRAINING

- ◆ *Juris Doctor*, Georgetown University School of Law, Washington, DC, 2001
 - Served as Executive Editor, Georgetown University Law Review
- ◆ *Seminar in health-care ethics*, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, DC, 2002
- ◆ *Mediation Certification*, Georgetown University School of Law, Seattle, WA, 2000
 - Completed a Mediation Clinic course, Georgetown University School of Law, 2000
- ◆ *Graduate-level coursework* in Labor Theory, Clinical Ethics, Medical Ethics, End-of-Life Issues, Higher Education Law, Health Law, Employment Discrimination, and International Health Issues, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 1995 to 1998
- ◆ *Bachelor of Arts in Political Science*, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 1986

BAR ADMISSION and PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- ◆ Admitted to State of Maryland Bar, 2002
- ◆ Member, State of Maryland Bar Association
- ◆ Member, District of Columbia Bar
- ◆ Member, American Bar Association
- ◆ Member, American Bar Association Life Sciences Grants Compliance Subcommittee
- ◆ Member, American Health Lawyers Association
- ◆ Member, State of Maryland Society of Healthcare Attorneys

