

BERNA L. RHODES- FORD

Of Counsel – Las Vegas Office

Mergers and Acquisitions
Healthcare
Employment

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Experience

Ms. Rhodes-Ford's practice areas include the representation of business organizations from formation to sale, including advice on day to day legal issues, corporate structuring, and mergers and acquisitions, with an emphasis on healthcare providers.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Rhodes-Ford worked as Senior Corporate Counsel for one of the nation's largest occupational healthcare companies, where she was directly responsible for all employment law matters affecting the company.

In addition to her in-house healthcare experience, Ms. Rhodes-Ford has represented healthcare providers in mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. In addition, she has advised healthcare providers on internal investigations and obligations related to agency investigations. She has also drafted numerous agreements for healthcare providers, including settlement agreements, transition services agreements, management services agreements, caregiver agreements, independent contractor agreements and severance agreements. Ms. Rhodes-Ford has also defended healthcare providers in employment related claims and non-compete matters.

As an attorney with both private law firm and in-house experience, Ms. Rhodes-Ford is uniquely qualified to represent healthcare providers and corporate clients.

Ms. Rhodes-Ford has served as a law clerk to the Honorable Johnnie B. Rawlinson of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. She has also served as Legislative Assistant to the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, United States House of Representatives, 30th District.

Ms. Rhodes-Ford was selected as one of the "Women to Watch 2010" by *InBusiness Las Vegas*.

Professional Activities

President, National Association of Women Business Owners, Southern Nevada Chapter, 2010 - present, Secretary 2008 -2009

Member, American Bar Association Health Law and Business Law Sections
Ambassador, American Bar Association, Business Law Section, 2009 – 2010
Membership Chair, Middle Market and Small Business Committee,

American Bar Association, Business Law Section, 2010

Member, American Health Lawyers Association, 2008 – present
Member, Healthcare Financial Management Association, 2008 – present
Chair, Nominating and Elections Committee, National Bar Association, Las Vegas Chapter, 2008
Program Chair, Ask A Lawyer program, National Bar Association, Las Vegas Chapter, 2008

Community Activities

Director, Make-A-Wish of Southern Nevada, 2009 - present
Director, Community Counseling Center, 2008 – present
Program Director, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Las Vegas Chapter 2008 – 2009
Director, Suicide and Crisis Center, 2005 – 2007
Nevada State Advisory Committee Member, United States Commission on Civil Rights, 2002 – 2003
International Second Vice President, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., 1992 – 1994

Publications

Take your Dog to Work Day: Rules on Animals in the Workplace, M. Lee Smith
Nevada Employment Law Letter, January 2010.

Understanding and Preparing for the Hidden Dangers of the Lily Ledbetter Act,
Holland & Hart News Update with Anthony Hall, March 2009.

Pandemic Paranoia: Don't Let Swine Flu Paralyze Your Workplace, M. Lee Smith
Nevada Employment Law Letter, June 2009.

Speaking Engagements

Health Care Reform: What's Happening, American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons Scientific Conference, Las Vegas, February 2010.

HIPAA, Red Flags and Other Compliance Headaches, American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons Scientific Conference, Las Vegas, February 2010.

Physician Employment Agreements: Dos and Don'ts, Las Vegas, February 2010.

HIPAA Changes from the Economic Stimulus Package and Data Breach Response, Medical Group Management Association, Las Vegas, December 2009.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Electronic Records and HIPAA, American College of Healthcare Executives, Healthcare Financial Management Association and Nevada Healthcare Association Annual Meeting, Reno, NV, September 2009.

The (Invisible) Line Between Franchisor and Franchisee: When You Can Be Held Liable for Your Franchisee's Actions, June 2009.

Procedures for Conducting E-Discovery, National Bar Association Annual Labor and Employment Law Conference, New Orleans, March 2009.

New Developments Concerning the Anti-Markup Rule, Stark III and HIPAA, Trends in Healthcare Compliance and Enforcement Seminar, with William Fischer, January 2009.

Employment Issues in Mergers and Acquisitions, National Bar Association Annual Labor and Employment Law Conference, Las Vegas, May 2008.

Education

University of Texas School of Law (J.D. 1996)

Southern Methodist University (B.S. 1993)

Business Administration

Southern Methodist University (B.A. 1993)

Psychology