



→ Michael D. Sutton

Associate

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Michael D. Sutton is an associate in the Corporate Practice Group in the firm's Dallas office. He is a member of the Digital Health Team and the lead associate for the Health-e Law podcast.

Healthcare Privacy, Digital Health, & Data Usage

Michael takes on the most cutting edge and disruptive areas of practice, blending healthcare, technology, and legal compliance into his daily workload. In particular, Michael focuses on HIPAA and privacy related regulations and their interplay with technological developments both inside and outside of the healthcare and consumer spaces. Similarly, Michael is well versed in negotiations centered on data usage and derivative ownership rights. He maintains significant experience in guiding clients seeking to market or integrate technological innovations, such as ordering and support platforms, remote patient monitoring tools, electronic medical record systems, artificial intelligence, and other offerings centered on collecting, storing, and transmitting patient data to support care, reimbursement, and related activities.

Michael supports clients as they navigate a complex web of emerging regulations in the digital healthcare space, tackling artificial intelligence, webtracking, information blocking, offshoring, de-identification, and other next-gen workstreams. He has managed investigations, worked to resolve active breach incidents, and advised clients regarding a range of healthcare privacy and technology oriented matters. Michael also supports clients in developing compliant and innovative approaches to navigating HIPAA and other healthcare privacy laws to ensure client objectives are achieved in alignment with all legal and regulatory requirements.

Healthcare Regulatory Compliance & Operations

Michael provides comprehensive healthcare regulatory services in support of a range of healthcare industry participants, such as investors, managed care organizations, health plans, medical groups, hospitals, long-term care facilities and operators, medical device retailers, among others. In particular, Michael has tackled operational and contractual negotiations, licensing and compliance, fraud and abuse considerations, and numerous other healthcare regulatory matters. He also enjoys significant drafting and negotiating experience specific to provider and payor contracts, including arrangements with risk-based, performance-based, and value-based components. Michael also assists with regulatory due diligence in transactions, covering everything from mergers and acquisitions to service relationships.

Transactions & Negotiations

Beyond the operational space, Michael supports a range of transactions, including acquisitions of or investments in tech companies, healthcare providers, and related systems. Michael also guides negotiations related to software and service relationships, particularly within the healthcare space. He also works to identify areas of vulnerability in targets and to establish creative solutions to address them.

Education & Background

Michael earned his J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he graduated first in his class. He served as articles editor for the Arkansas Law Review, was a Charles Thomas Pearson Fellow, and was a member of the Board of Advocates, Military Law Society and Business Law Society. He received a B.A. in History from Ouachita Baptist University.

Before attending law school, Michael served as a military police officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, performing installation security activities, law enforcement, and weapons training. He also supported Operation Key Resolve in South Korea.

Honors

Texas Rising Star, *Super Lawyers*, 2023-2025

Articles

- Hot Topics in HIPAA
07.01.2025
- Unpacking HHS' Proposal To Amend HIPAA Security Rule
Law360, 02.06.2025
- Eye on Privacy: 2024 Year in Review
01.21.2025
- Healthy AI: 2024 Year in Review
01.08.2025
- Growing Pains and Growth Spurts: AI in Healthcare
Headnotes, Dallas Bar Association, 04.2024
- Eye on Privacy: 2023 Year in Review
01.26.2024

Healthcare Law Blog Posts

- "New WISeR Model Aims to Leverage AI Technology to Reduce Costs and Inefficiencies," December 10, 2025
- "Opting Out of Web Tracking Has Never Been Easier in California," October 22, 2025
- "A New Era of Privacy Enforcement: Lessons for Digital Health Players," September 11, 2025
- "White House Announces National Health Data Tracking System of Personal Health Data," August 21, 2025
- "Texas Enacts Responsible AI Governance Act Adding to Patchwork of AI Laws," July 23, 2025

- "The State of Reproductive Healthcare Privacy," June 30, 2025
- "Takeaways from the America's Physician Groups' Spring Conference: Turbulent Times Call for Change and Innovation," May 28, 2025
- "Healthcare Security is Homeland Security: A Discussion with Jonathan Meyer," March 4, 2025
- "Healthy AI: 2024 Year in Review," January 8, 2025
- "New York Adopts Comprehensive Hospital Cybersecurity Requirements," January 6, 2025
- "HHS' Last-Minute Holiday Gift: Proposed Changes to the HIPAA Security Rule," January 6, 2025
- "Texas Considers Comprehensive AI Bill," December 30, 2024
- "Navigating Gainsharing Pitfalls in Value-Based Models," December 26, 2024
- "Texas AG Targets Data Use Under New Privacy Law," December 23, 2024
- "California Limits Health Plan Use of AI in Utilization Management," November 7, 2024
- "Healthcare Needs More Hackers: A Discussion with Ilona Cohen," October 2, 2024
- "CMS Releases First Annual Evaluation Report for Kidney Care Choices Model," September 30, 2024
- "Do You Catch Our Drift? Navigating the Waters of Offshoring and Patient Data," August 8, 2024
- "Assessing Data Assets in Healthcare: A Discussion with Arti Bedi Pullins," July 16, 2024
- "Remote Patient Monitoring Innovating Health Tech: A Discussion with Dr. Vipul Kella," June 3, 2024
- "FemTech Meets DiagnosTech: A Discussion with Deirdre O'Neill," April 29, 2024
- "Gamification – Playing for Health: A Discussion with Craig Lund," April 23, 2024
- "CMS Issues CY2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Final Rule," April 15, 2024
- "HHS Announces 42 Part 2 Final Rule to Align with HIPAA," March 14, 2024
- "District Court Elucidates the Meaning of "to Induce" Under the Federal Health Care Program Anti-Kickback Statute," February 28, 2024
- "Digital Health to the Rescue – Improving Access to Specialized Care: A Discussion with Viveka Rydell-Anderson," January 16, 2024
- "AI as an Aid – Emerging Uses in Healthcare: A Discussion with Jim Gatto," January 8, 2024
- "In Tech We Trust? The Case for Transparency: A Discussion with Dr. Laura Tully," December 21, 2023
- "Health-e Law Launches: New Podcast Covers Health-Tech and Law," December 8, 2023
- "CMS Promotes Competition, Transparency, Health Equity and More in the CY2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Proposed Rule," November 13, 2023
- "At a Glance: Legal Efforts to Limit Discrimination Through AI," October 20, 2023
- "California Moves to Protect Medical Information Collected Through Reproductive and Sexual Health Applications," October 3, 2023
- "Texas Joins States Limiting Use and Disclosure of Genetic Data," July 31, 2023

- "FTC Proposes Changes to Health Breach Notification Rule Clarifying Application to Health and Wellness Apps," June 29, 2023
- "State Attorneys General Pen Letter to OCR Advocating for Greater Privacy Protection of Reproductive Health Care Information," June 27, 2023
- "Florida Bans Offshoring of Certain Patient Information," May 25, 2023
- "Texas is Making Moves on a Comprehensive Consumer Privacy Law," May 25, 2023
- "CMS's Administrative Simplification Rule Aims to Increase Efficiency and Standardization for Health Care Attachments," March 7, 2023
- "Telehealth in a Post-PHE World," March 3, 2023
- "ICYMI: HIPAA and Social Media IRL," February 8, 2023
- "Key Healthcare Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023," January 6, 2023
- "Proposal to Overhaul Privacy Law Governing Substance Use Disorder Treatment Records," December 2, 2022
- "Office of Civil Rights Publishes Guidance on Use of Audio-Only Telehealth Services," June 20, 2022

Privacy & Cybersecurity: Eye on Privacy Blog Posts

- "New Texas Law Requires Storage of Electronic Health Records in U.S.," August 1, 2025
- "New Texas Law Permits Use of AI In Health Care," July 29, 2025
- "Out in the Open: HHS's New AI Transparency Rule," March 21, 2024
- "Don't Forget Deception: FTC and Biometrics," June 13, 2023

Media Mentions

Other States May Join Calif. to Give Consumers More Control of Data, Say Lawyers
Privacy Daily, 10.22.2025

Florida bans offshore health record storage
Healthcare IT News, 05.31.2023

Events

AI Pitfalls in Healthcare Transactions
11.11.2025

Memberships

American College of Healthcare Executives

Association for Corporate Growth

Boston Bar Association

American Bar Association

Arkansas Bar Association
Dallas Bar Association - Health Law Section
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
Texas Bar Association - Health Law Section
American Health Law Association
Health Care Compliance Association
International Association of Privacy Professionals

Podcasts & Webinars

Health-e Law Episode 19: From AI to OBBBA: Healthcare Law Insights from the 2025 WHLC Leadership Summit with Amy Dilcher and Chi Huynh, WHLC Co-Chairs
12.03.2025

AI Pitfalls in Healthcare Transaction
11.11.2025

Health-e Law Episode 18: AI in Clinical Research: Opportunities, Risks, and the Road Ahead with Bill Kish and Dr. Brad Pruitt of Kenosha AI
07.24.2025

Health-e Law Episode 17: Navigating AI: Governance and Innovation at UCSD Health With Ron Skillens of UCSD Health
04.21.2025

Health-e Law Episode 16: Crossroads of Care: Navigating Executive Orders with Jonathan Meyer, former DHS GC and Partner at Sheppard Mullin
02.25.2025

Health-e Law Episode 15: Healthcare Security is Homeland Security with Jonathan Meyer, former DHS GC and Partner at Sheppard Mullin
02.05.2025

Health-e Law Episode 14: The Future (of Healthcare) is Female with Danielle Vrabie and Amanda Zablocki, Co-Chairs of Sheppard Mullin's WHLC
12.06.2024

Health-e Law Episode 13: Overcoming Challenges to Innovation in Preventative Care with Steven Collens of MATTER
10.09.2024

Health-e Law Episode 12: Healthcare Needs More Hackers with Ilona Cohen of HackerOne
09.25.2024

Health-e Law Episode 11: CURES and Beyond: Reining in the Long Tail of Healthcare
07.17.2024

Health-e Law Episode 10: Assessing Data Assets in Healthcare with Arti Bedi Pullins of QuestionPro
06.27.2024

Health-e Law Episode 9: Remote Patient Monitoring Innovating Health Tech with Dr. Vipul Kella of Physio AI
05.02.2024

Health-e Law Episode 8: What We Heard at HIMSS 2024 with Michael Orlando & Carolyn Metnick
04.17.2024

Health-e Law Episode 7: Health Vibes at ViVE with Sara Shanti and Carolyn Metnick
03.21.2024

Health-E Law Episode 6: FemTech Meets DiagnosTech with Dierdre O'Neill of Hertility Health
03.07.2024

Health-e Law Episode 5: Gamification: Playing for Health with Craig Lund
02.14.2024

Health-e Law Episode 4: What to Watch for in '24: Costs, Consolidation and Tech with Eric Klein of Sheppard Mullin
01.17.2024

Health-e Law Episode 3: Digital Health to the Rescue: Improving Access to Specialized Care with Viveka Rydell-Anderson of Pacific Vision Foundation
12.07.2023

Health-e Law Episode 2: AI as an Aid: Emerging Uses in Healthcare with Jim Gatto of Sheppard Mullin
12.07.2023

Health-e Law Episode 1: In Tech We Trust? The Case for Transparency with Dr. Laura Tully of ChatOwl
12.07.2023

Health-e Law Episode 0: Trailer
11.30.2023

Practices

Corporate

Healthcare

Mergers and Acquisitions

Private Equity

Technology Transactions

Industries

Artificial Intelligence

Healthcare

Education

J.D., University of Arkansas School of Law, 2015, *summa cum laude*

B.A., Ouachita Baptist University, 2012, *magna cum laude*

Admissions

Arkansas

Massachusetts

Texas