

# LAW & HEALTH CARE PROGRAM



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
FRANCIS KING CAREY  
SCHOOL OF LAW

## MARYLAND CAREY LAW: AT THE FOREFRONT OF HEALTH LAW SCHOLARSHIP AND ADVOCACY



Law & Health Care faculty members (*from l to r*) Leslie Meltzer Henry, Lauren Levy, Diane Hoffmann, Richard Boldt, Frank Pasquale, Karen Rothenberg, and Kathleen Hoke (*not pictured: Sara Gold, Michael Greenberger, Amanda Pustilnik, and Deborah Weimer*)

As fall begins, the Law & Health Care Program at Maryland Carey Law prepares for another academic year and a schedule of exciting programming that will include a roundtable to discuss the role of law in the opioid crisis, a panel presentation on the problem of drug pricing and the growing number of state laws attempting to address it, the annual Health Law Regulatory and Compliance Competition, and a planned Health Law Roundtable that will look at issues at the intersection of health law and bioethics. Most importantly, we welcome a new cohort of students including not only our JD candidates but also those admitted to the health law-focused LLM and Master of Science in Law programs.

As the profiles below make clear, it has been a busy summer for the health law faculty, as they have developed and strengthened academic collaborations, both domestically and internationally, published important scholarly contributions, and continued to work at the forefront of health law scholarship and advocacy.

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: RANDI KOPF '89

It has been more than thirty years since a nursing colleague encouraged Randi Kopf to pursue her legal education. At the time, Ms. Kopf was teaching in the graduate program of the University of Maryland School of Nursing as well as working as a family oncology nurse practitioner. She would often delve into the ethical and legal issues that arise in the healthcare setting with her students and she thought that training in the law would help to inform her teaching.

Given her connection to the University of Maryland, the School of Law seemed like a natural fit. She entered the law school just as the Law & Health Care Program was being developed by Professors Karen Rothenberg and Diane Hoffmann. She notes, "In addition to a number of nurses, there were many other clinicians attending – physicians, dentists. It was a very exciting time to be a part of the program."

As an oncology nurse practitioner, Kopf was no stranger to the role of law in health care matters. She frequently found herself involved in legal issues with patients such as wills, patient rights, visitation, etc. "Now cancer can be considered a chronic illness. Back then, cancer patients had a much shorter life expectancy. There was an urgency to the issues that came up, these end-of-life legal issues required timely action."

Kopf recalls of her days at the law school, "I took every health law course that I could. These courses as well as

contracts, torts and administrative law inform my legal practice to this day."



MD Carey Law alum, Randi Kopf, with Anita Hill, Professor Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy and Management

Kopf was also fortunate to complete an internship at the National Institutes of Health Office of the General Counsel. "The general counsel at NIH is truly working at the nexus of law and medicine. That experience really solidified it for me. I knew that I was going in the right direction," Kopf says of her internship experience.

After graduation, Kopf jumped into the field with both feet. She accepted a position in the Health Law practice group of Nixon, Hargrave, Devans & Doyle (now Nixon Peabody) and she was invited to serve on the Maryland legislative committee that was

responsible for writing the first Health Care Decisions Act for the state. That was the first of many invitations Kopf has received over the years to contribute her unique expertise as a nurse attorney. After several years at the law firm, Kopf decided to establish a solo practice, Kopf Health Law, LLC. In her practice, Kopf works with physicians and other health care providers on issues ranging from medical practice establishment and acquisition, employment agreements, contract negotiation, administrative regulatory issues and health information technology matters.

Apart from her dedication to clients, Kopf is also deeply committed to service, in the profession and beyond. She has been active in professional organizations serving as Chair of the Health Law Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association and as a member of the health law section of the Maryland State Bar Association. She supports her fellow nurse attorneys through, among other activities, leadership roles with The American Association of Nurse Attorneys (TAANA) and Chesapeake Nurse Attorneys, Inc.

She has been called upon by Congressional Committees, patients' rights groups and others to educate and advocate. She recalled a recent example where the National Labor Relations Board released guidelines regarding the use of social media for employers that directly conflicted with HIPAA regulations. Kopf was able to

advocate for her clients and the board then issued exceptions and additional guidance for health care employers.

That recent case drew on Kopf's significant expertise at the intersection of healthcare and technology. She lectures and writes frequently for both lawyers, clinicians, and patients, helping each group to successfully navigate the electronic age in healthcare. She has recently given talks, for example, regarding the use of social media in health care settings as well as legal practices.

A recent career highlight for Kopf was the opportunity to present Anita Hill, Professor at Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy and Management, with the Mary Eleanor McGarvah Award at TAANA Foundation's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Educational Conference in Boston, MA. Professor Hill was recognized for her contributions to equal justice, social justice and support of women's rights.

Kopf says, "People sometimes ask me why I became an attorney if I

loved being a nurse practitioner. The way I see it, each of my degrees and professional experiences have built on each other. It has been a natural progression from providing care to patients as a nurse, beginning to address end-of-life legal issues as an oncology nurse practitioner, to serving as an attorney-advocate for health care professionals and patients. It has been a continuum. I love being a nurse attorney and the health law program at the University of Maryland prepared me well."