



Kathleen A. Hessler
RN, JD, CHC, CHPC
Director of Compliance and Risk

Kathleen, Director of Compliance and Risk at Simione Healthcare Consultants, joined the company in August 2013 with over 30 years of combined nursing, legal and consulting experience in the health care profession.

With her extensive experience in health care compliance and risk management, Kathleen is responsible for enhancing industry relationships, managing projects, and developing and growing the compliance and risk team nationwide. Her position with Simione does not include providing legal advice. Kathleen currently serves as Chair of the Health Law & Compliance Section of the American Association of Nurse Attorneys. She is Certified in Healthcare Compliance (CHC) and Certified in Healthcare Privacy Compliance (CHPC) by the Compliance Certification Board.

Kathleen began her career working as a registered nurse in Minnesota prior to moving to Washington state, where she maintains her RN license. After earning her law degree in 1991, Kathleen served as Associate/Corporate Counsel for The Hillhaven Corporation, Vencor, Inc. and Sun Healthcare Group, all national long-term/post-acute care companies, providing legal advice to the subsidiary businesses.

Kathleen maintains a law license in New Mexico where she opened a law and consulting practice in 1999. In her practice, she represented multiple local, regional and national providers across the health care continuum, with special emphasis in the post-acute care areas including but not limited to nursing facilities, home health and hospice. Her legal advice focused on regulatory compliance and operational matters, as well as regulatory appeals and mediations. Additionally, she assisted her clients in developing, implementing, and maintaining compliance, risk and quality programs.

From 2010-2012, Kathleen held the position of Director, Risk Management for CHRISTUS St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center in Santa Fe, NM where she worked extensively with all departments and over 25 clinics to manage and mitigate risk. Kathleen holds certificates in healthcare ethics and ethics consultations. She enjoys teaching, speaking, writing, and has published articles on health care legal issues and end-of-life matters. She speaks frequently to nurses, lawyers and other health care professionals on a myriad of legal and ethical topics affecting health care providers. She taught Health Care Ethics at the University of New Mexico Honors Program and served on the faculty of Webster University. Volunteer work includes working with and speaking to consumer audiences and non-profit organizations on end-of-life issues and navigating the healthcare system.