Carrington Coleman

D. Wade Emmert

PARTNER

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I am always prepared to leverage what I've learned for a client's benefit.

Health care organizations face an increasingly complex intersection of regulation, technology, business opportunity, and risk. A board-certified health law attorney, Wade helps clients navigate that intersection with practical legal guidance grounded in deep health law experience. Wade advises health care providers, companies, investors, and entrepreneurs on transactions, regulatory compliance, privacy and AI governance, reimbursement, licensing, and the legal issues arising from innovative health care business models.

His experience spans the full life cycle of a health care business—from structuring and growing a practice or organization, to navigating a transaction, implementing emerging technologies, responding to regulatory scrutiny, or defending a professional license. Wade brings the same strategic focus to each matter: understanding his client's objectives, anticipating legal and regulatory challenges, and developing solutions that protect the client's interests while advancing its goals.

Wade's experience extends beyond private practice. As an Adjunct Professor at Texas A&M University School of Law, he teaches Healthcare Transactions, Antitrust, and Healthcare Fraud & Abuse. His credentials in privacy and emerging technology—including CIPP/US and AIGP certifications—further reflect his commitment to helping health care clients address the rapidly changing legal landscape surrounding data, technology, and innovation.

Merger & Acquisition Representation

Represents sellers of health care practices and companies

Deep experience across medical, chiropractic, optometry, podiatry, and other practice areas

Available to advise selling providers about health law issues that arise during due diligence

Wade provides guidance to healthcare providers navigating the complex process of selling their practice or business. With extensive experience representing sellers in transactions across various healthcare sectors, including physician services, behavioral health, and outpatient services, Wade works closely with clients to fully understand their unique needs.

Wade is an Adjunct Professor at Texas A&M Law School, teaching a course on Healthcare Transactions and Antitrust.

From conducting due diligence to negotiating favorable terms, Wade helps providers protect their interests and achieve their goals in the sale. With deep knowledge of healthcare regulations, Wade can help ensure compliance throughout the transaction, mitigating client risks.

Data Privacy and Emerging Technology Governance

Privacy and data governance

Artificial Intelligence implementation

HIPAA-compliance and breach management

Wade has industry-leading credentials in data privacy and governance, including emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI). He provides critical guidance to healthcare organizations navigating an increasingly complex privacy and data landscape.

From advising on best practices for AI development and deployment to crafting effective governance policies, Wade empowers healthcare providers, technology companies, and other stakeholders to confidently leverage data-driven innovations while safeguarding patient privacy and maintaining trust.

Wade is double certified by the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) as a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) and an Artificial Intelligence Governance Professional (AIGP). He is also Certified in Cybersecurity (ISC2 CC), extending his knowledge to technical implementation.

Strategic Guidance

National growth strategies

Non-profit healthcare structures

Dental Service Organizations

Multidisciplinary medical practices

Wade provides counsel to healthcare organizations seeking to develop robust growth strategies and optimize their business structures. With experience advising on national expansion plans, Wade helps clients develop sustainable strategies that align with their mission and goals.

Wade also has expertise in advising non-profit healthcare entities and their unique business challenges. For dental service organizations and multidisciplinary medical practices, Wade offers tailored guidance on corporate structures, partnerships, and acquisitions to support their unique needs and objectives. By leveraging his understanding of the healthcare landscape, Wade empowers clients to make informed decisions and achieve long-term success.

Regulatory Compliance Advice

Federal and state fraud & abuse laws: Stark Law, Anti-Kickback Statute, Civil Monetary Penalties Law (CMPL), Eliminating Kickbacks in Recovery Act (EKRA)

HIPAA, EMTALA, No Surprises Act

Data Privacy and Governance

Wade provides comprehensive regulatory compliance advice to healthcare providers, helping them navigate the complex web of federal and state laws with confidence. With expertise in fraud and abuse laws, including Stark Law, Anti-Kickback Statute, Civil Monetary Penalties Law (CMPL), and the Eliminating Kickbacks in Recovery Act (EKRA), Wade helps clients mitigate risks and avoid costly penalties.

Wade is an Adjunct Professor at Texas A&M Law School, teaching a course on Healthcare Fraud & Abuse.

Wade also guides organizations through the intricacies of HIPAA, EMTALA, the No Surprises Act, and other federal and state laws, allowing them to maintain compliance while delivering exceptional patient care.

Reimbursement and Audit Defense

Medicare and Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) audits

Commercial insurance audits

False Claims Act and Qui Tam defense

As a skilled healthcare law attorney, Wade supports healthcare providers facing the daunting challenges of Medicare, Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC), and commercial insurance audits. With extensive experience resolving False Claims Act and qui tam actions, Wade offers strategic guidance to clients, helping them mount a robust defense to protect their company, practice, and reputation.

Wade's adept understanding of the regulatory landscape allows him to anticipate potential pitfalls and develop proactive strategies to minimize risks. By leveraging keen analytical skills and persuasive advocacy, Wade ensures that his clients' interests are vigorously defended, enabling them to focus on delivering exceptional patient care with peace of mind.

Retail Medicine Support

Medical weight loss clinics

Med spas and IV hydration therapy clinics

Wade provides comprehensive legal guidance to entrepreneurs and healthcare providers establishing and operating medical weight loss clinics, med spas, and IV hydration therapy clinics. With a deep understanding of Texas laws, such as the Corporate Practice of Medicine Doctrine, and the unique regulatory structure in the state, Wade offers strategic advice on licensing, scope of practice, and compliance with federal and state laws.

Wade's expertise extends to drafting and reviewing contracts, informed consent forms, and other critical legal documents to protect his clients' interests and mitigate risks. By staying abreast of the latest industry trends and legal developments, Wade serves as a trusted advisor to clients in all phases of the business cycle. Whether launching a new venture or seeking to expand an existing practice, Wade is committed to providing the personalized advice needed to thrive.

Healthcare License Defense

Defend providers in licensing board complaints and investigations

Experience with Texas Medical Board, Texas Nursing Board, Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Texas Board of Pharmacy, and Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors

Wade provides robust healthcare license defense to providers facing complaints and investigations from Texas licensing boards. With extensive experience representing clients before various regulatory bodies, Wade has a deep understanding of the unique challenges and high stakes involved in these proceedings.

Wade works tirelessly to protect his clients' livelihoods and reputations, leveraging his keen analytical skills and persuasive advocacy to craft compelling defenses and negotiate favorable resolutions. By providing personalized attention and wise counsel throughout the process, Wade allows healthcare professionals to deal with the anxieties of licensing board investigations with confidence. Whether facing an initial complaint or a formal disciplinary action, Wade is committed to fighting for his clients' licenses and ensuring that their voices are heard.

View Wade's News & Insights

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Corporate, M&A, Private Equity
- Technology & Innovation

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS

- Board Certified, Health Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization
- Double Certified, Information Privacy Professional, Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) and Artificial Intelligence Governance Professional (AIGP)
- Certified, Cybersecurity (ISC2/CC)

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- *In re Lenny Lopez*, ___ S.W.3d ___, 2018 Tex. App. LEXIS 1023 (Tex. App. – Tyler 2018)
- *In re Kristi Pena*, 2017 Tex. App. LEXIS 1843 (Tex. App. – Dallas 2016) [Unpublished]
- *Barko v. Genzel*, 123 S.W.3d 457 (Tex. App. – Eastland 2003, no writ)
- *Rice v. Pinney*, 51 S.W.3d 705 (Tex. App. – Dallas 2001, no writ)

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

"I trust him and he has never let me down." ~2026 Chambers USA Guide

"Wade has been pivotal in showing us how to maintain compliance and change quickly when the need arises. He has been a voice and defender for my business when I needed it the most." ~2026 Chambers USA Guide

"Wade is a consummate professional in every sense of the word. Reliable, consistent, quick to respond and very confident in his knowledge. I can run 'worst case scenarios' by Wade confidently." ~2026 Chambers USA Guide

"Wade is careful, confident, and accurate in his guidance. He knows and upholds the integrity and morals of our company values as strongly as his own, and we are continually impressed by him." ~2026 Chambers USA Guide

"Wade was an exceptional partner throughout this matter. He combined deep legal expertise with a practical, solutions-oriented approach that made complex issues easy to navigate." ~2026 Chambers USA Guide

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Education

- Baylor Law School, J.D., 1995; Mock Trial Team, Order of Barristers
- Abilene Christian University, B.A., Business and International Studies, *magna cum laude*, 1992

Bar + Court Admissions

- Licensed in Texas
- Texas Supreme Court
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District, Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District, Texas

- U.S. District Court, Northern District, Texas
- U.S. District Court, Southern District, Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District, Texas
- U.S. Supreme Court

HONORS & AWARDS

- *Chambers USA*, Healthcare – Texas, 2025-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® (BL Rankings), Health Care Law, 2026-2027
- Best Lawyers in Dallas, *D Magazine*, 2024-2026
- Leading Dealmakers in America, Health Care, M&A, Data Privacy & Emerging Technology, *Lawdragon 500*, 2025
- Texas Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters, 2003-2004, 2023, 2025
- America's Most Honored Professionals – Top 1%, 2018-2019
- Client Champion Gold, 2017-2019
- AV Preeminent Attorney, 2016-2019
- AV Preeminent – Lawyers.com, 2019
- PRR AV Preeminent – Lawyers.com, 2018
- America's Most Honored Professionals – Top 5%, 2017
- America's Most Honored Professionals – Top 10%, 2016
- BV Distinguished Icon, 2015
- BV Distinguished Attorney, 2014-2015

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Member, American Bar Association, Health Law Section
- Member, Texas Bar Association; Health Law Section
- Member, Dallas Bar Association; Health Law and Litigation Sections, Board of Directors, 2023-Present
- Member, Texas Health Lawyers Association
- Member, State Bar of Texas
- Member, Republican Party of Texas, General Counsel, 2019-2020; Assistant General Counsel, 2017-2019
- Board of Directors, Institute for Policy Innovations, 2016-2020
- Chairman, Dallas County Republican Party, 2011-2016
- Board of Visitors, UNT | Dallas College of Law, 2014-2016
- Board of Advisors, Methodist Charlton Medical Center, 2010-2016
- Cedar Hill City Council, 2004-2010
- Chairman, Best Southwest Partnership, 2009-2010
- Board Member, Best Southwest Partnership, 2006-2010

- Civic Leader of the Year, Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce, 2003
- President, Cedar Hill Economic Development Corporation, 2003
- Board Member, Cedar Hill Economic Development Corporation, 2001 – 2003
- Ten Most Influential People in Dallas, Yahoo News, 2013
- Member, Mensa, 2004 – present

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Author, "Texas Health Law Highlights" (ongoing weekly newsletter), texashealthlaw.com
- Speaker, The Peptide Puzzle: Regulatory Gray Zones and Emerging Enforcement, Texas Health Law Conference, October 2026
- Speaker, Before You Add Peptides to Your Practice, Texas Chiropractic Association Webinar, May 2026
- Author, "When Your Smartwatch Knows Too Much," Dallas Bar Association *Headnotes*, April 2026
- Speaker, HIPAA Q1 2026 Update, LinkedIn Live, March 2026
- Author, "No, You Can't Just 'Not Take Medicare' - What Every Chiropractor Needs to Know," TexasHealthLaw.com, February 2026
- Speaker, Texas Privacy Law Essentials, TexasBarCLE's 16th Annual Essentials of Business Law Course, March 2025
- Speaker, Administrative Rules of the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, 2025 Texas Chiropractic Association Convention, March 2025
- Speaker, A Hitchhiker's Guide to Practice Acquisition: A Buyer's and Seller's Guide, Texas Health Law Conference, October 2024
- Speaker, Administrative Rules of the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, 2024 Texas Chiropractic Association Convention, June 2024
- Author, "The Compounding Problems of Semaglutide," Dallas Bar Association *Headnotes*, April 2024
- Speaker, Hiding in Plain Sight: Compliance in Retail Medicine, Texas Health Law Conference, October 2023
- Speaker, Out-of-Network Claim Dispute Resolution and Private Right of Action under the Texas Insurance Code, Dallas Bar, Health Law Section, August 2023
- Author, "The Med Spa on the Corner is Probably Breaking the Law." Dallas Bar Association *Headnotes*, April 2023
- Speaker, Recent Developments in Health Law Impacting the Practice of Medicine and Chiropractic in Texas, Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, August 2022
- Speaker, Representing Physicians and Pharmacists in DEA Investigations, Dallas Bar Association Health Law Section, July 2022
- Speaker, Integrated Practices and Med Spas: Understanding the Basic Rules of Ownership and Operations, Texas Health Law Conference, October 2021
- Speaker, Handling Licensing Board Investigations from Complaint to SOAH Hearing, Dallas Bar Association Health Law Section, August 2021
- Speaker, Bad Batch or Miracle Cure: Texas Response to Stem Cell Therapies, Dallas Bar Association Health Law Section, August 2020