

Consultant skilled in the development of comprehensive and effective risk management programs for healthcare companies of all sizes and levels of care. Experienced in all phases of loss prevention, claim management, risk education, and enterprise risk management. Effective at deep analysis of risk and safety culture and performance. Collaborative in developing improved risk solutions that complement clients' strategic goals. Key competencies include:

- Integrating Risk, Quality And Patient Safety Functions To Maximize Benefit
 - Enterprise Risk Management Program Development And Implementation
 - Develop Appropriate In-House/Outsourcing Models
 - Risk Analysis And Optimization Of Operational Policies And Practices
 - Introducing Well-Recognized Tools For Managing Conflict and Human Factors
 - Creating Synergy Among Risk Financing, Patient Safety and Loss Prevention Programs
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

KATHRYN WIRE RISK STRATEGIES, St. Louis, MO

President and Principal Consultant (2004-present)

Independent healthcare risk management consultant, providing a wide variety of services to providers, insurance companies, claim management firms, and insurance brokers. Clients include professional liability companies and RRG's, excess carriers, national health systems, and regional long-term care providers.

- Assisted two national healthcare systems to integrate long-term care operations into existing acute care risk management and operational programs
- Developed strategies for two merging hospitals to address obstetrical risks and differences in practice
- Created risk assessment processes for long-term care, anesthesia, obstetrics and radiology
- Maintained on-call risk management availability for clients without internal risk management staff
- Designed the overhaul of a hospital's risk management and claim functions so the facility could obtain excess coverage

SISTERS OF MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM, St. Louis, MO

Director of Medical-Legal Services (1997-2003)

Responsible for all claim and litigation management for four Mercy Strategic Service Units. Provided loss prevention and risk management consulting to facility risk managers and administrative leadership.

Participated in loss prevention initiatives at the system level with organization leaders.

- Led coordinated effort with facility risk manager to reduce outstanding reserves in South Texas hospital by 50%
- Co-led system-wide obstetric risk reduction initiative
- Initiated operational and risk management reviews of new service lines and clinical services to reduce poor outcomes at start-up

BJC HEALTHCARE, St. Louis, MO

Director of Claims and Litigation (1993-1997)

Responsible for all claim and litigation management for regional health system with 13 hospitals (including a major urban teaching facility) and related physician practices and outpatient locations.

- Consolidated five different claim management programs, all with different claim committees, defense counsel and payment/funding models, into a single successful structure that remains substantially intact today
- Actively managed panel of defense counsel to develop consistent practices and quality of service

BARNES HOSPITAL (now Barnes-Jewish Hospital), St. Louis, MO

Risk Manager (1983-1993)

Designed and initiated Barnes' first risk management program, which included comprehensive management of all claims for Barnes and 900 resident physicians and all related facilities (two small hospitals, a nursing home, home health agency, and occupational health). Managed risk financing functions. Conducted educational programs for staff, including interns and residents. Consulted with all areas to reduce losses and improve outcomes.

- Introduced risk management to all clinical and operational areas
- Co-led implementation program for Patient Self-Determination Act
- Maintained a favorable (<1) experience modification factor for professional liability

SANDBERG, PHOENIX & vonGONTARD, St. Louis, MO

Student Law Clerk and Associate Attorney (1979-1983)

EDUCATION, LICENSURE, LEADERSHIP AND HONORS

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, St. Louis, MO 1980

J.D./M.B.A. Order of the Barristers

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Evanston, IL 1976

B.S.J. (Journalism)

Other qualifications and activities:

- Member, Missouri and Illinois Bars
- Certified Professional Healthcare Risk Manager
- Fellow of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (FASHRM)
- Certified Civil Mediator, Missouri
- Past President and current Treasurer, St. Louis Association for Healthcare Risk Management
- Governing Board member, Missouri Association for Healthcare Risk Management
- Chair, Pearls Task Force (2006) and Audioconference Task Force (2008), ASHRM
- Member: ASHRM, American Health Lawyers Association, Local and State risk management associations, St. Louis Association of Healthcare Attorneys

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Publications

“Risk Managers: Are They Managing Our Risks?” Journal of the Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors, Vol 26 Number 2 (2007)

“Risk Is From Venus; Quality Is From Mars,” Healthcare Liability and Litigation, American Health Lawyers Association, Vol. 8 Issue 2 (2006)

“Achieving Malpractice Magic: Casting Out Defensive Medicine,” Hospitals and Health Systems Rx, American Health Lawyers Association, Vol. 8 Issue 2, Spring 2006

“Risk Managers Appraise Tort Reforms Winner and Losers,” ASHRM Risk Financing and Claims Administration Interest Network INsights, Vol. 1 No. 4 (2005)

“Long Term Care Brings Special Challenges,” Medical Liability Monitor, November 2005.

“Modern Issues Call For Adaptability in Handling Claims” ASHRM Risk Financing and Claims Administration Interest Network INsights, Vol. 1 No. 3 (2005)

“Avoiding Decision Traps with Mediation, ASHRM Risk Financing and Claims Administration Interest Network INsights, Vol 1 No. 1 (2005)

“Maximize the Benefits of Outcome Disclosure with Early Mediation,” Hospitals and Health Systems Rx, American Health Lawyers Association, Volume 7 Issue 2, Spring 2005

“Opening Up to Avoid Malpractice Losses,” Medical Liability Monitor, January 2005.

“Embracing Poor Outcomes: A Comprehensive Claim Reduction Strategy,” (chapter) in West’s Health Law Handbook (2004) Gosfield, A., editor, West: A Thompson Business (2004)

Wire, Kathryn and Felix, Diane, "Denials of Care by Healthcare Providers," St. Louis Bar Journal (Fall 1993).

Wire, Kathryn, "Medicolegal Issues in Emergency Medicine," in A Practical Approach to Emergency Medicine; Stine and Marcus, Little, Brown and Co. (1993, 1987)

Lectures and Seminars

Visiting Lecturer Role Development in Advance Practice Nursing, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, recurring from 2005. (Instructor: Valerie Yancey)

Visiting Lecturer Strategic Negotiations, Washington University Health Administration Program, Sept. 26, 2005, April 12, 2007 and April 27, 2008 (Instructor: Annette Veech)

Faculty “Enterprise Risk Management Solutions,” Vermont Captive Insurance Association Conference, Burlington, VT, August 14, 2008

Faculty “Adverse Event Reporting in Illinois,” Illinois Society for Healthcare Risk Management Annual Conference, Bloomington, IL, June 13, 2008

Faculty “Adverse Event Reporting in Illinois: On the Threshold,” Illinois Society for Healthcare Risk Management Videoconference, Springfield, IL, March 19, 2008

Faculty “Playing Well in the Sandbox: Risk Managers as Conflict Management Experts,” Missouri Hospital Association Annual Convention, Osage Beach Missouri, November 8, 2007

Faculty “The Patient Safety Act of 2005 - the Federal Law and Implications for Missouri,” various locations, January 2007. Sponsored by the Missouri Center for Patient Safety.

Faculty “Playing Well in the Sandbox: Risk Managers as Conflict Management Experts,” American Society for Healthcare Risk Management Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, October 30, 2006.

Faculty “Disclosure: What’s Below the Water Sank the Titanic,” Kansas Association of Risk and Quality Management Annual Conference, Wichita, KS, September 14, 2006.

Faculty “Using Outcome Disclosure as a Claims Management Tool,” Missouri Bar Health and Hospital Law Committee CLE, May 13, 2005.

Faculty “Minimizing Malpractice Losses: Truth in Caring” for Inside the Experience of Illness: Hope and Truth in Pain and Palliative Care, symposium sponsored by Barnes-Jewish Hospital College of Nursing and the Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values at Washington University, St. Louis, MO , April 15, 2005.

Faculty “Embracing Poor Outcomes as a Claims Management Tool,” American Society for Healthcare Risk Management Annual Conference, October 18, 2004, Orlando Florida

Faculty “Using Outcome Disclosure as a Claim Management Tool,” Illinois Society for Healthcare Risk Management Spring Update 2004, June 15, 2004, East Peoria, IL.

Faculty “Outcome Disclosure as a Claim Management Tool,” Alternatives to Healthcare Litigation, World Research Group (sponsor), September 29-30, 2003 New York, NY.

Faculty “Mandatory Disclosure of Unanticipated Outcomes,” Hospitals and Health Systems Law Institute,” American Health Lawyers Association, February 9-10, 2003, San Diego, CA