

Health Law Changes To Impact the Practice of Every Virginia Lawyer

by John B. Mumford Jr., VSB Health Law Section Chair

Health care has been a hot button word in Virginia for several years — from the issues surrounding mental health treatment following the Virginia Tech tragedy, to health care reform and Virginia’s lawsuit to block the implementation of federal health law reform. Like it or not, health care as we know it has been and continues to be in a state of flux. The world of health care litigation has also been active — including legislative changes to Virginia Code Section 8.01-581.17 governing the privilege afforded to quality assurance information maintained by health care providers, as well as the *Melendez-Diaz* decision from the Supreme Court of the United States holding that the long established practice of admitting toxicology reports (such as blood tests for drugs and alcohol) without the testimony of the person who performed the test violated a criminal defendant’s Sixth Amendment right of confrontation.

The articles in this edition of *Virginia Lawyer* analyze these issues, one or more of which will impact the practice of every lawyer in Virginia. This statement holds true for health law as a whole — a practice area with core issues of its

own, but which blends with and overlays virtually every area of the law.

The Health Law Section of the Virginia State Bar offers useful information to its members through CLE programs, newsletters, our website <http://www.vsb.org/site/sections/health/>, and other useful activities and content. The Health Law Section welcomes as new members practitioners devoted to health law issues on a daily basis, as well as those who just want to keep up with changes in health care and health law — of which there will be plenty in the coming years. Hold on for the ride.



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