



hen it comes to assessing the critical care needs of clients, Rising Star attorney-nurse Decanda Michelle Faulk has an advantage over her peers. She credits nursing for her success as both an entrepreneur, health law and compliance attorney. "The excellent time management and critical thinking skills I developed as a nurse allow me to run a successful health law consulting firm and maintain part-time employment with The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)," she says.

Faulk currently divides her time at UMDNJ between University Hospital's Office of Compliance and Corporate Office of Legal Management.

BROAD RANGE OF SERVICES Faulk & Associates was founded as a health law consulting firm, providing a broad range of legal and other services to health care entities, including hospitals, health systems, physicians and other health-related clients. The firm ensures that clients' business objectives comply with all laws.

The firm counsels clients in structuring business transactions, including physician relationships and joint ventures, as well as on all federal, state, and third-party regulatory compliance. Faulk advises on incident investigations, suspected procedural oversights, and fraud and compliance issues.

RISING STAR Decanda Faulk, received her law degree from Rutgers School of

Law-Newark in 1997, and is admitted to both the New Jersey and New York bars. She is the Past Chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Health and Hospital Law Section, and is currently an adjunct professor at the Rutgers School of Law-Newark. Faulk is a published author and lecturer in the field of health law and has been recognized as a New Jersey Minority Achiever for her professional accomplishments and community involvement. In addition, she has been selected by Manchester Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals.

OUR GOAL IS TO HELP CLIENTS COMPLY WITH THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN HEALTH CARE, PROVIDE OPTIMUM PATIENT CARE, AND SUSTAIN APPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PHYSICIANS AND OTHER BUSINESS PARTNERS

Faulk has a proven record of accomplishment based on the principles of success, excellence, integrity, and passion. "To achieve effective compliance programs, clients must seek competent counsel in the areas of health law, including compliance, fraud, and abuse, but also leadership must strive to make compliance the organization's culture not just a program or means of avoiding wrongdoing," she says. "Having attorneys integrate themselves on the business side contributes to developing compliance as a culture."

Faulk credits her success to mentor James H. Freis. "He exposed me to complex transactions and taught me the importance of diversifying in areas of the law that complement each other."

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