



James W. Saxton

Chairman

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Services and Industries

- Healthcare
- Healthcare Litigation
- Litigation
- Risk Management and Quality Assurance
- Medical Device and Technology

Education

Duquesne University School of Law, J.D., 1982

Shippensburg State College, B.A., 1979

Admissions

Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Founder and experienced law firm leader providing direction and strategic vision for the firm's growth

James W. Saxton is the chairman and co-founder of Saxton & Stump. He is an experienced leader who provides direction and strategic vision for the growth of the firm. Under Jim's leadership as chief executive officer, in its first ten years, the firm's revenue has increased nearly 500%, accompanied by exponential growth in the number of attorneys, business professionals, services provided, and geographic footprint.

Building on that strategic vision, Jim is the architect of a different professional services platform—one intentionally designed to embrace innovation at every level. This approach includes the strategic addition of 7+ affiliate companies, expanded marketing and business development support, talent growth initiatives, and the early adoption of AI. Drawing on more than 30 years of experience leading a successful healthcare litigation practice, Jim works closely with practice group leaders and attorneys to mentor them and support their professional development.

Throughout his career, Jim has held numerous leadership roles, including serving as co-chair of the health law practice at an Am Law 200 firm, where he also sat on the firm's finance committee, as well as on the management committee of a large regional firm. His influence extends beyond the firm: Jim has been named to the *Central Penn Business Journal's* Power 100 List for four consecutive years, recognizing the region's top professional, political, and economic leaders who shape their communities and influence quality of life.

Healthcare Litigation Practice

In his litigation practice, Jim continues to represent hospitals and physicians before state and federal courts in professional liability and complex litigation matters. His practice includes healthcare litigation, health law, medical staff matters and strategic planning. Leveraging his extensive experience as a litigator, Jim advises physicians, hospitals, and post-acute care facilities to reduce their professional liability risk by promoting excellence in patient satisfaction and incorporating certain safety protocols using innovations such as industry-proven data analytics and artificial intelligence. He has helped create innovative risk reduction tools, including specialty-specific diagnostic clinical effectiveness dashboards and patient experience and engagement tools, many of which are now being used nationally. Jim has also created innovative safety programs for captive insurers, many national in scope.

Recognized expert on healthcare law issues

Jim is a nationally known speaker on healthcare issues, including litigation and trial best practices, mitigation, and patient safety, as well as overviews of the changes in the healthcare landscape. He has presented to many prominent healthcare organizations at both the state and national levels, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, the American Urological Association, and the Physicians Insurers Association of America. (See "*National Speaking Engagements*" below for a full list of presentations.)

Additionally, he has published more than 300 articles, several handbooks, and seven textbooks in his field, including [*Operation Five-Star: Service Excellence in the Medical Practice – Cultural Competency, Post-Adverse Events, and Patient Engagement*](#). (See "*Publications*" below for a full list.)

Jim is an active member of many professional associations and has been chosen as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, a prestigious nomination reserved for less than one-half of one percent of the lawyers in the country; Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; and a board member of [Joy Metrics](#). In 2017, he was certified as a member of Lawyers of Distinction, an honor limited to the top 10% of attorneys in the United States. As published in Philadelphia Magazine, Jim has been recognized annually on the list of Pennsylvania Super Lawyers since 2012. Additionally, he has been recognized annually by his peers on the list of Best Lawyers in America for his high caliber of work in Litigation – Healthcare since 2016 and as a Select Lawyer in Medical Malpractice Law in 2015.

Dedication to the Community

In addition to his legal pursuits, Jim believes strongly in giving back to the community, volunteering in leadership roles, and lending his expertise to many healthcare and community nonprofits. In 2014, Jim was the recipient of the “Excellence in Philanthropy Award” presented by the Lancaster General Health Foundation’s Board of Trustees. In 2013, he was awarded “Philanthropist of the Year” by The Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Additionally, Jim was the founding board member of the Lancaster Community Health Plan; chairman of the Lancaster YMCA Foundation; and prior to that, president of the Lancaster YMCA Board of Directors. Jim is also a past board member of the American Heart Association.

Experience

- Has overseen and supervised thousands of medical professional liability claims, including catastrophe claims
- Successfully tried over 80 trials to verdict
- Helped to create captive insurance companies, many national in scope
- Developed risk and quality assurance programs, many national in scope
- Aided in reorganizing entire risk and claim systems
- Helped to develop medical professional liability claims “best practices” for health systems and medical professional liability insurers
- Led investigations involving multiple significant risk and quality assurance issues
- Worked with medical staffs on programming and education initiatives
- Authored hundreds of articles and several handbooks and textbooks
- Invited speaker to national conferences, panels, webinars, and educational programs
- Held multiple professional leadership positions in law firms and professional and civic organizations
- Has taken part in founding multiple professional services companies and continues to hold leadership positions, including on the [board of directors for Joy Metrics](#)

Recognitions

- [Best Lawyers in America](#), Litigation – Health Care and Medical Malpractice Law Defendants, 2016-2027, Health Care Law, 2027
- Central Penn Business Journal, [Icon Honors List](#), 2025
- Central Penn Business Journal, Power 100 List, 2021-2025
- Central Penn Business Journal, Power 30 Law and Lobbyists List, 2021-2024
- [Pennsylvania Super Lawyers](#), Civil Litigation: Defense, 2005 and 2012-2026

- [Lawyers of Distinction](#), 2017
- Select Lawyers, 2015
- Lancaster General Health Foundation, 2014 Excellence in Philanthropy Award Recipient
- Fellow of the [Litigation Counsel of America](#)
- Rated AV Preeminent by [Martindale-Hubbell](#)

Publications

- [I Was Sued...Now What?](#), Co-authored with Darlene K. King, Esq., Lancaster Physician, Winter 2020
- [Providers: Take Steps to Enhance Patient Engagement and Prevent Lapses That Lead to Lawsuits](#), Co-authored with Darlene K. King, Esq., Lancaster Physician, Fall 2019
- [Rising Hospital Settlements and the Shift Away from Defending Claims - Are We Breaking the Backs of Hospitals, Insurers, and Healthcare Consumers?](#) Co-authored with Kevin M. Bingham and John Hall, Jr., December 2018
- [Physician/Hospital Relationships: Reflecting Back, Looking Forward](#), EndoEconomics, Winter 2018
- [A New Era of Transparency: Prepare for the Inevitable](#), Co-authored with Darlene K. King, Esq., EndoEconomics, Fall/Winter 2017
- [Patient Engagement and the Gateway 'Patient Experience'](#), Co-authored with Darlene K. King, Esq., Inside Medical Liability, September 2017
- [Burned-out Physicians in Litigation: Providing the Support They Need](#), Co-authored with Daniel E. Shapiro, PhD, Inside Medical Liability, November 2016
- [Physician Empowerment Suite Leverages Big Data to Mitigate Medical Liability Risks, Improve Practice Economics](#), Co-authored with Richard K. Hammer, MD, Medical Liability Monitor, August 2016
- [Five Star Service - Excellence in GI](#), GI Journal of Physicians Endoscopy, 2016
- [Add Another Tool to the Defense Toolkit Courtesy of the ACA](#), Co-authored with Darlene K. King, Esq., Inside Medical Liability, 2016
- [I was Sued...Now What?](#), Co-authored with Darlene K. King, Esq., AAE Communique, February 2016
- [How to Avoid a Lawsuit: Steps Endodontists Can Take to Anticipate and Prevent Legal Action](#), Co-authored with Darlene K. King, Esq., AAE Communique, January 2016
- SAGES Inguinal Hernia Educational Program - Hernia Task Force Retreat, Legal Expert Interview, 2016
- [Taking Bariatric Safety to the Next Level](#), Bariatric Times, October 2014
- Operation Five-Star: Service Excellence in the Medical Practice - Cultural Competency, Post-Adverse Events & Patient Engagement, Co-authored with Maggie M. Finkelstein, Esq., Greenbranch Publishers, 2014

Professional Affiliations and Memberships

- College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Fellow
- Litigation Counsel of America, Fellow
- [Joy Metrics, Board of Directors](#)
- American Health Lawyers Association, ACO Task Force
- American Health Lawyers Association, Healthcare Liability and Litigation Practice Group, past chair
- Lancaster Bar Association, Professionalism Section
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Lancaster Community Health Plan, founding board member

- Hensel Brown Inn of Court, Master Designation; past president
- Lancaster YMCA, past president, and foundation chairman

National Speaking Engagements

- Commencement speaker, Shippensburg University Undergraduate Commencement, May 11, 2024
- Keeping Ahead and Out of Trouble, 5th Annual Update in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), September 22, 2018
- Leveraging Data to Change the Risk Management Game, Physicians Insurers Association of America Medical Liability Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, May 18, 2017
- GI Patient Experience 3.0: "Getting Serious" Is the Silver Bullet, GI Roundtable 2017, Fort Worth, TX, March 17, 2017
- Liability & Economics for Doctors: 1+1 Can Equal 3!, Guy Carpenter Medical Professional Liability Networking Forum, La Jolla, CA, April 14, 2016
- Reducing Medico-Legal Risk in Gastroenterology: Why Patients Sue & Implementing Steps to Avoid Lawsuits, Second Annual Update in Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Charleston, SC, September 26, 2015
- Medical Malpractice in Urology: How to Prevent and Defend, AUA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, May 17, 2015
- Avoiding Medical-legal Unpleasantness: How to Med/Mal-proof Your Practice, Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Annual Meeting
- Linking Outcomes to Reimbursement While Mitigating Risk, 15th Annual Minimally Invasive Surgery Symposium, Las Vegas, NV, February 27, 2015
- Quality/Reimbursement/Liability – A Collision Course?, 10th Annual Medical Liability Insurance ExecuSummit, Mohegan Sun, CT, September 9, 2014
- Hospital & Physician Integration: Steps for Successful Collaboration, PLUS Medical Malpractice Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 23, 2014
- ACO Type Reimbursement: Impact on Healthcare and MPL, PIAA Marketing Workshop, Chicago, IL, April 10, 2014
- Reducing Practice Exposure and A Major Source of Pain: A Surgical Risk Mitigation "Tool Kit", 14th Annual Minimally Invasive Surgery Symposium Marketing Workshop, Las Vegas, NV, March 1, 2014
- The ACA and Beyond: Impact on Surgical Practices, 14th Annual Minimally Invasive Surgery Symposium Marketing Workshop, Las Vegas, NV, March 1, 2014
- Implementation of Quality Assurance Initiatives that Make a Difference, 14th Annual Minimally Invasive Surgery Symposium, Las Vegas, NV, February 28, 2014
- Reducing Your Professional Liability & Enhancing Your Practice, 2013 ACS Surgery Resident Program, Washington, DC, October 7, 2013
- Post ACA – Is the Dust Settling? Impact on providers and You!, 9th Annual Medical Liability Insurance ExecuSummit, Mohegan Sun, CT, September 10, 2013
- Post Adverse Event Communication; Medical Malpractice Risk Management; New Face of Litigation; Healthcare Reform, Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship Fundamentals Conference, Sedona, AZ, August 21-24, 2013
- A Changing Healthcare Environment – Time to Enhance Your Practice and Reduce Your Risk!, Lehigh County Medical Society, May 14, 2013
- Post-ACA: Evolving and Accelerating Change: Impact on Providers and You!, MPL Networking Forum, Las Vegas, NV, April 18, 2013

- The New Healthcare Environment...What it Means for MPL Carriers, The Mutual Risk Retention Group, San Diego, CA, March 26, 2013
- Resources to Help Your Insureds Succeed In 2013 and Beyond!, NJ Pure, February 28, 2013
- Part II - The Supreme Court's Ruling on ACA: Impact on MPL Carriers, PIAA Webcast, February 6, 2013
- Neurological Impaired Baby - Science v. Sympathy...Who Wins?, 29th Annual Conference - Obstetrics, Gynecology, Perinatal Medicine, Neonatology, and the Law, Kauai, HI, January 2-6, 2013