



Todd & Weld LLP

Paul Cirel

Partner

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Medical professionals and institutional healthcare providers turn to Paul Cirel for savvy guidance on health law litigation and compliance matters.

Paul Cirel has represented individual and institutional healthcare clients for more than 30 years in federal and state courts, as well as administrative agencies and other governmental authorities. Mr. Cirel also provides ongoing guidance regarding developments in health law and regulatory compliance to individual providers, practice groups, clinics, and hospitals.

A partner at the firm, Mr. Cirel represents healthcare clients facing fraud and abuse investigations; civil and criminal false claims and anti-kickback prosecutions in state and federal courts; governmental and other third-party payor audits; and disciplinary and other administrative agency proceedings. His individual clients include physicians, dentists, nurses, physical therapists, practice managers, and other medical professionals. Mr. Cirel's institutional clients include healthcare corporations, hospitals, medical device companies, pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies, nursing homes, home health agencies, medical clinics, drug testing laboratories, and adult day health providers.

Healthcare professionals frequently seek Mr. Cirel's counsel when they are involved in proceedings before the Board of Registration in Medicine and other professional licensing authorities. He also advises both physicians and medical staffs in hospital-based peer-review proceedings. Healthcare institutions and providers seek his guidance for a variety of commercial and regulatory matters, including Medicare, Medicaid, and other third-party administrator audits.

Prior to private practice, Mr. Cirel served as Senior Trial Counsel and Deputy Chief of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General.

Practice Areas

- Health Law
- Government Investigations and Criminal Defense
- Professional Liability Litigation
- Business Litigation

Representative Results

Representative Results

Paul Cirel's notable accomplishments include:

- Represented psychiatrist before the Supreme Judicial Court in a case of first impression establishing that the psychotherapist-patient privilege cannot be pierced even by investigative subpoena
- Successfully represented orthopedic shoe manufacturers/distributors in Attorney General's industry-wide investigation of Medicaid fraud and regulatory compliance
- Secured dismissal of all criminal charges brought against a chiropractic clinic related to a government crackdown on automobile accident insurance fraud
- Successfully resolved four separate Medicaid Fraud investigations of Adult Day Health programs
- Successfully resolved two-year grand jury Medicaid fraud investigation of dental clinic, resulting in no criminal charges and restitution settlement with no fines, penalties, or sanctions
- Obtained favorable civil resolutions of grand jury anti-kickback and false claims investigations of drug testing labs
- Obtained separate not guilty jury verdicts on behalf of two psychiatrists, a dentist, and a gynecologist each of whom had been charged with sexually assaulting a patient
- Won dismissal of all charges against a psychiatrist who had prescribed controlled substances to two undercover state police troopers posing as patients
- Successfully defended neurosurgeon accused by Board of Registration in Medicine of performing over 20 unnecessary surgeries
- Secured restoration of clinical privileges for a radiation oncologist following a peer review proceeding at a major Boston teaching hospital
- Obtained retroactive rate increases for Massachusetts Ambulance Association because of a lawsuit seeking higher reimbursement rates

Experience

- Todd & Weld LLP

- Hogan Lovells
- Collora LLP
- Office of Massachusetts Attorney General, Deputy Chief of Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts

Education

- Boston University School of Law (1973)
- California State University Long Beach (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1970)

Professional Activities

- American Health Lawyers Association
- American Bar Association
- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Boston Bar Association

Publications/Presentations

- Panelist, "Opioid Diversion: Managing Risks and Implementing Controls," Boston Bar Association CLE, December 2018
- "Nontraditional Health Care Programs Under the Microscope," *Law360*, Feb. 23, 2018

Honors and Awards

- Named by *Best Lawyers in America* as Health Care Litigation "Lawyer of the Year" in Boston (2024)
- Named to *Best Lawyers in America* for Health Care Law (2016-present)
- Named to Massachusetts *Super Lawyers*, Health Care and Criminal Defense: White Collar (2005-present)
- Named to *Boston* magazine's Top Lawyers (2023, 2024)
- Rx for Excellence, Heroes From the Field, Massachusetts Medical Law Report

In the Community

- President, Newton Athletic Association

News & Insights

- Todd and Weld Attorneys Named to Boston Magazine 2025 Top Lawyers List

- Thirty-Seven Todd & Weld Attorneys Named to 2025 Massachusetts Super Lawyers & Rising Stars List
- Paul Cirel Named 2025 “Go To Lawyer” for Professional Malpractice by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly
- 21 Todd & Weld Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers in America
- Nine Todd & Weld attorneys selected to Boston magazine's Top Lawyers 2023
- Four Todd & Weld attorneys named as 2024 Lawyers of the Year by Best Lawyers in America
- Paul Cirel to present at ethics forum hosted by MA Medical Society
- 17 Todd & Weld Attorneys Selected to Boston Magazine's 2022 Top Lawyers
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Nineteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2023 Best Lawyers in America
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2020 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Seventeen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2021 Best Lawyers in America
- Out-of-state and retired physicians can apply for temporary licensing in Massachusetts to help address COVID-19 crisis
- 31 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Fifteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2020 Best Lawyers in America
- Paul Cirel to participate on panel discussion concerning legal risks, new laws relating to opiate prescriptions
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2018 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Fourteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2019 Best Lawyers in America
- Todd & Weld attorneys recognized in New England's Best Lawyers publication
- Law360 publishes Paul Cirel article on nontraditional health care programs facing increased government scrutiny
- New partners at Todd & Weld featured in Law360 article
- Todd & Weld expands, adding four accomplished trial lawyers

Results

- Firm helps medical doctor avoid discipline for treatment of patient in ‘close case’
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- Firm obtains acquittal of multiple sexual assault charges against dentist