



AMERICA'S
ESSENTIAL
HOSPITALS

Nicholas W. Romanello, Esq

Interim CEO

Health Care District of Palm Beach County



Nicholas Romanello, previously the general counsel and chief legal officer, was appointed interim CEO of the Health Care District of Palm Beach County on Tuesday, July 28. The Health Care District of Palm Beach County provides health coverage for low-income residents, a nationally acclaimed trauma system, clinics with a dedicated nurse in more than 170 public schools, a pharmacy network, a long-term skilled nursing and a rehabilitation center, a network of federally qualified health centers and acute care hospital services at Lakeside Medical Center, the county's only public hospital.

Romanello rejoined the Health Care District in 2012 after serving as general counsel for the Florida Department of Health. As General Counsel of a department with a budget of over \$3 billion that regulates more than 1,000,000 practitioners, Nicholas supervised a team of over 90 lawyers in 15 different offices across Florida and was a member of the department's Senior Management Team.

Earlier in his career, Romanello served as associate general counsel to the fifth largest, public hospital system in the United States which is comprised of 4 hospitals and 40 ambulatory sites where he provided advice and counsel on a variety of healthcare related matters including: regulatory issues, contractual review, risk management, and labor and employment issues. Romanello enjoys additional experience defending practitioners against claims for medical malpractice and representing healthcare facilities and providers in administrative proceedings initiated by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and Florida Department of Health.

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In 2012, Florida Governor Rick Scott appointed Romanello to serve on the Fifteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission which is the body responsible for providing the governor of Florida with a list of possible appointments to the Florida's 15th Judicial Circuit (whose jurisdiction extends over Palm Beach County).

In December 2005, Florida Governor Jeb Bush appointed Romanello to serve on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws commonly known as the Uniform Law Commission ("ULC"). The ULC's mission is to provide states with non-partisan and well-drafted legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of the law. In 2006 the ULC appointed Romanello to serve on the drafting committee for the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Care Practitioners Act and the Study Committee on Health Care Information. Romanello was reappointed to serve on the ULC for a second term in 2008 by Governor Charlie Crist.

Additional outside associations and activities that Romanello participates in include the American Bar Association, American Health Lawyers Association, Florida Academy of Hospital Attorneys and the Florida Bar where he is a current member of the Health Law Section Executive Council and Health Information Technology Committee. He is a frequent commentator and lecturer on legal, regulatory and public policy topics.

Romanello received a Bachelor Degree from the Florida State University and earned his Juris Doctorate from the St. Thomas University School of Law.

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