
Michael Bass

PARTNER



Albany

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This biography is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Cannabis Law Group
- Civil Litigation
- Health Law
- Surrogacy Agency Attorneys
- New York Surrogacy Law & CPSA Requirements
- Surrogacy & Assisted Reproductive Technology
- OPMC Defense
- OPMC & OPD Attorneys
- OPD Defense
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Insurance Audit and OMIG Audit Defense Attorneys

Michael Bass is a Partner and a member of the [Health Law Practice](#) Group, providing counsel on all aspects of health care law. He particularly focuses on surrogacy programs, regulatory enforcement, advising health care providers (including nursing homes), other long term care facilities, physician practice groups, and others. Additionally, Mr. Bass is the Co-Chair of the Cannabis Law Group at Abrams Fensterman, LLP.

Prior to joining Abrams Fensterman, Mr. Bass was an attorney at the New York State Department of Health for nearly 13 years. In his time at the Department, he served as a prosecutor in the Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct, which would later lead the Department's Bureau of Litigation and then

served as the Deputy General Counsel. He acted as General Counsel and led the Department's Division of Legal Affairs through much of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that capacity, Mr. Bass oversaw approximately 120 attorneys and the hundreds of legal matters the Department was involved with through its Ethics Office, Bureaus of Professional Medical Conduct, Program Counsel, Health Facility Planning and Development, Adjudication, Litigation, Enforcement, Records Access Office, and the legal wing of the New York State Department of Health.

While he advised the Commissioner on all matters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic response, Mr. Bass' time at the Department also included work on the expansion of the New York's Medical Marijuana Program, banning of flavors in vaping products, the Department's role in litigation against the opioid industry and the prosecution of physicians associated with the NXIVM cult.

Mr. Bass served as a prosecutor in the Cayuga County District Attorney's Office and was once the St. Lawrence County Public Defender. While previously working in private practice, Mr. Bass specialized in criminal defense and litigation.

Past volunteer activities include the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, service on the Booker T. Washington Board of Directors in Auburn, New York, and coaching youth football. Mr. Bass has also coached football and track at the high school varsity level and wrestling at the junior varsity level.

Mr. Bass earned his J.D. from the Syracuse University College of Law, his B.A. from the University of Albany, and was a member of the varsity football team while he attended Penn State.

Mr. Bass is admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York

EDUCATION

- New York State Leadership Institute
- Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, New York, J.D.
 - First Year Moot Court, Dean's List
- University of Albany, Albany, New York, B.A. (Magna Cum Laude)
- Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania
 - Varsity Football

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

- A Few Good Trial Tactics – CLE presentation

- Copyright Law and the Fair Use Doctrine – CLE presentation
- The Law on Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing – CLE presentation
- NYSDOH Litigation Update – CLE presentation
- NYSDOH Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct Direct Referral Process – CLE presentation

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Albany County Bar Association, Member
- New York State Bar Association, Health Law Section, Member

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

- **Abrams Fensterman Named Tier 1 Best Law Firm® in Health Care Law – Long Island (2026)** —
11/10/2025
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/awards/abrams-fensterman-named-tier-1-best-law-firm-in-health-care-law-long-island-2026>
- **Michael Bass Provides Insights on Proposed National Autism Registry – CBS News 6** —
04/25/2025
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/news/michael-bass-provides-insights-on-proposed-national-autism-registry-cbs-news-6>
- **Abrams Fensterman Recognized as a Tier 1 Law Firm for Health Care in Long Island by Best Lawyers® for 2025** — 11/07/2024
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/abrams-fensterman-recognized-as-a-tier-1-law-firm-for-health-care-in-long-island-by-best-lawyers-for-2025>
- **Health and Human Services Department Releases Nursing Home Owner, Manager Disclosure Rule** — 12/08/2023
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/health-and-human-services-department-releases-nursing-home-owner-manager-disclosure-rule>
- **Albany Office Celebrates Second Anniversary** — 08/04/2023
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/albany-office-celebrates-second-anniversary>
- **New Notice Requirement for Health Care Transactions** — 05/03/2023
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/new-notice-requirement-for-health-care-transactions>
- **Office of the Medicaid Inspector General Releases Compliance Guidance** — 03/27/2023
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/office-of-the-medicaid-inspector-general-releases-compliance-guidance>
- **Legal Sales of Cannabis Begin in New York** — 12/29/2022
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/legal-sales-of-cannabis-begin-in-new-york>
- **Governor Signs into Law Bill Adding to Nursing Homes' Pandemic Emergency Plan Requirements** — 12/08/2022
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/governor-signs-into-law-bill-adding-to-nursing-homes-pandemic-emergency-plan-requirements>
- **Updates to Nursing Home Residents' Rights** — 05/01/2022
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/client-alert-updates-to-nursing-home-residents-rights>
- **New York's marijuana rollout inches along as New Jersey starts sales – Times Union – Michael Bass quoted** — 04/20/2022
<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/New-York-farmers-wait-for-cannabis-seeds-as-New-17091592.php>
- **Abrams Fensterman, LLP Expands to Albany, New York; Grand Opening of Sixth Law Office Location** — 09/28/2021
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/abrams-fensterman-expands-to-albany-new-york-grand-opening-of-sixth-law-office-location>

- **Abrams Fensterman Expands Into Albany With New Office – Law360 – Michael Bass Interviewed** — 09/21/2021

<https://www.law360.com/pulse/articles/1423405/abrams-fensterman-expands-into-albany-with-new-office>