

Donna Herbert

Owner and President

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Donna Herbert is the founder of Financial Consultants of Alaska & Washington (FCAW). Since 1979, she has provided advice and counsel to health care providers in both Alaska and Washington concerning all aspects of budget, finance, Medicare/Medicaid/Managed Care Reimbursement and preparation of third-party cost reports, specializing in Critical Access Hospital, Long Term Care and Rural Health Provider Reimbursement.

Donna and her firm have worked with many small rural hospitals, for which they have assisted in obtaining special designation status such as Critical Access and Sole Community Hospital, Geographic Reclassification, and CAH Provider-based Clinic status. Additionally Donna has assisted facilities in obtaining increased reimbursement by filing Exception Reports in: Medicare 5% volume, Disproportionate Share, and Medicaid Exceptional Relief.

Donna has successfully helped many providers prepare and respond to Medicare and Medicaid fraud audits, resulting in reducing and overturning over \$26 Million in penalties, paybacks and interest associated with such audits over FCAW's 30+year history. Donna has also served as an expert witness, prepared exhibits, and assisted with legal briefs for many Healthcare Facilities' Court Appeals. Additionally, she has experience with various legal levels, including Hearing Examiner for PRRB Hearings, Civil and Supreme Court, and Ninth Circuit District Court. Several of the Supreme Court Cases that she was involved in achieved national acclaim, including a case that resulted in one of her health care clients being awarded in excess of \$90,000,000.

Prior to starting her own firm, Donna served as head of the Medicaid Audit Unit for the Department of Health and Social Services for the State of Alaska, and liaison to Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) on behalf of the State Health & Social Services Commissioner's Office. Donna is also Past President and Finance Committee Chair for the Bartlett Regional Hospital Board of Directors.

Recent Presentations and Seminars

- *“Developing an Effective Managed Care Recovery & Fraud Audit Response Plan”*
 - HFMA, Monterey, CA, September 2009;
- *“Healthcare Across Borders: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities”*
 - HFMA, Honolulu, HI, April 2009;
- *“The Tangled Web of Fraud Audits”*
 - HFMA, Anchorage & Fairbanks, AK, 2008;

- *“It’s A Dangerous World: Responding to Healthcare Audits”*
– Western Washington Rural Health Care Collaborative, Seattle, WA, 2008.
- *“Fraud and Recovery Audits Performed by Medicare and Medicaid: Who’s Your Watchdog?”*
– HFMA, Lake Chelan, WA, 2008;
- *“Financial Wellness Plan: Improve Your Bottom Line”*
– HFMA, Anchorage, AK, 2007

Recent Publications

- *Government Budget Deficits Trigger Increased Provider Audits*
Washington Healthcare News, Vol. 5, March 2010
- *How Benchmarking Can Help Your Facility Achieve Financial Wellness,*
Washington Healthcare News, Vol. 4, September 2009
- *Boost Your Critical Access Hospital’s Bottom Line with Swing Bed Designation,*
Washington Healthcare News, Vol. 4, March 2009
- *OIG Holds Hospital Boards Accountable on Fraud Audits,*
Washington Healthcare News, Vol. 3, December 2008
- *Recovery Audit Contractors Are Not Going Away... Will Your Facility Survive the Assault?*
Washington Healthcare News, Vol. 3, September 2008