



Kathryn E. Spates

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Director Federal Regulations
The Joint Commission

Kathryn E. Spates is the Director of Federal Relations at The Joint Commission. She is responsible for developing strategic opportunities for The Joint Commission involving the public and private sectors. She analyzes the effects of legislation, regulations, and guidance on The Joint Commission and healthcare entities. To accomplish this, Ms. Spates maintains relationships with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), legislative offices, purchasers of healthcare, and national policy organizations on healthcare and she represents The Joint Commission before government oversight bodies. Ms. Spates previously worked as a Regulatory Counsel at FDA and as a Food and Drug associate in the Washington, DC office of Keller and Heckman LLP.

Before Ms. Spates began her government relations and legal career, she worked in healthcare as a nurse practitioner in both government and academic medical centers. Ms. Spates also served as an associate investigator and research coordinator for multiple clinical studies, including investigational new drug (IND) studies, supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. In addition, Ms. Spates had the rewarding opportunity to work as a nurse practitioner at Peace Corps Headquarters, where she was responsible for coordinating care for the Africa region, and as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy Nurse Corps, where she was a recipient of the Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Recent Publications

K. Spates and F. Stearns, FDA Finalizes Guidance on Naming Biological Products: Lingering Safety Concerns, ABA's The Health Lawyer, April 2017.

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia, Maryland

Professional Memberships / Activities

- Member, The Food and Drug Law Institute
- Member, American Bar Association - Health Law Section
- Member, American Health Lawyers Association
- Member, American College of Healthcare Executives