

Michigan WOMEN in the LAW

Abby L. Pendleton

It's been a heck of a two-year stretch in Abby L. Pendleton's career.

Since she helped found The Health Law Partners in 2009, the firm has doubled in size and added two new offices.

"That is the thing I'm most proud of," Pendleton said. "We grew from five attorneys to 11, and opened offices in New York and Atlanta, which increased our revenues by 60 percent, all during a tough economic period."

As a founding shareholder and president of the firm, Pendleton provides counsel to health care providers, suppliers and organizations about compliance, reimbursement and contract matters, and third-party payer audit appeals.

Pendleton is in a constant state of balancing her work life with her family life. She said she has a great source of support in her twin sister, Adrienne Dresevic, who is a partner at the firm, and in her husband, who also works with her, having had a successful career in health care.

"And then the partners here were wise enough to tap him to be our chief operating officer," Pendleton said.

The couple has two young daughters, ages 7 and 8, who are active with school and soccer games that Pendleton tries very hard to never miss.

"When we were launching the new firm two years ago, we were all very driven, and we were putting in 15- and 16-hour days," she said.

In order to make the most of her time at the office while still being a good mother, she would have them brought to the office so she could spend a few hours with them.

"And sometimes I did the 'bad mother' thing and let them stay up a little too late, just so we could see each other in the evenings when I was working late," Pendleton said. "It wasn't ideal, but we made the best of it and made it work."

Today, she said she focuses her professional efforts on co-chairing the firm's Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor and Audit Practice Group, an area of law that continues to gain significant importance under President Barack Obama's focus on health care reform.

Pendleton said that it's not only a growing area — it's also a rapidly changing area of the law.

To keep clients, potential clients and other lawyers in the know, Pendleton has become a prolific writer of professional articles — publishing more than 100 articles in trade and association publications. She's also an active speaker and educator.

"I do make the time for it, even though it often means staying up late at night to fit it into the day," she said. "We have to serve our clients, but we are also businesspeople, and the writing is a great way to stay on top of issues and developments in health care law, but also a way to stay in touch with our current clients and attract new ones."

"It's all worth it. I love the work, and I take great pride in our clients' victories. And I love having interesting and heady projects that are never boring."

— CAROL LUNDBERG



EDUCATION: Wayne State University Law School (1996) | **FIRM:** The Health Law Partners PC, Southfield | **SPECIALTY:** Health law