



Caila Wagar, University at Buffalo School of Law and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: Michael F. Anthony Health Law Scholarship Recipient

I was motivated to apply for the Michael F. Anthony Scholarship because of the invaluable opportunities it offered to engage with the health law community,

deepen my understanding of critical health law topics, and expand my professional network before beginning my career as a health law attorney. I was particularly inspired by Michael F. Anthony's dedication to AHLA and his commitment to mentoring young lawyers. The prospect of honoring his legacy by attending the conference and fully leveraging this experience as I begin my professional journey was incredibly compelling.

As a full-time law student, attending the conference would not have been financially feasible without the generous support provided by the scholarship donors. Before attending, I anticipated gaining a deeper understanding of key health law issues. Additionally, I also hoped to leave with a strong sense of community among health law professionals—an expectation that was certainly met.

One of the most impactful sessions I attended was, "What to Expect When You are Expecting More Change in Health Law Next Year." This session provided valuable insights into upcoming changes in various areas of health law, equipping me with knowledge that will be particularly relevant as I transition into my role as a first-year health law associate. Additionally, the "False Claims Act: Combating Fraud and Abuse in Health Care" session enhanced my understanding of fraud and abuse enforcement within the health care industry, which was particularly impactful because this is an area of law I intend to focus on upon graduation.

A particularly memorable experience was attending the Early Career Professionals Council dinner. It was an incredible opportunity to connect with fellow young professionals in the health law field and receive practical advice on how to excel as a young attorney. I left the dinner with new connections and valuable resources for career development, which will undoubtedly benefit me as I embark on my professional journey.

One of the most meaningful moments of the conference was learning about Michael F. Anthony's profound impact on AHLA and the legal community. Hearing personal anecdotes from his colleagues, friends, and family underscored his dedication to mentoring young attorneys and fostering professional growth. As a scholarship recipient, I was honored to uphold his legacy by engaging with distinguished professionals and absorbing the wealth of knowledge available at the conference.

This experience reaffirmed my commitment to a career in health law. The conference sessions provided a comprehensive overview of various practice areas within the field, giving me a clearer understanding of the diverse career paths available. Moving forward, I will apply both the substantive legal knowledge I gained and the professional development strategies I learned at the AHLA conference.

Upon returning, I shared my experience with my peers at law school, emphasizing the immense value of the conference and encouraging them to apply for the AHLA scholarship. I plan to continue encouraging my peers to become involved in AHLA and take advantage of this and other scholarship opportunities.

The comprehensive support provided by AHLA, including registration, accommodation, and travel, was instrumental in allowing me to fully immerse myself in the conference experience. The clear and consistent communication from AHLA staff regarding travel and accommodation ensured a seamless experience, enabling me to focus entirely on learning and networking. The logistical support significantly enhanced my ability to make the most of the conference without distractions.

For any law student interested in health law, I highly encourage you to apply for the Michael F. Anthony Health Law Scholarship. This opportunity not only expands your knowledge of critical health law issues but also facilitates meaningful connections with professionals and peers who will support your career development.

As I move forward in my legal career, I will continue to draw upon the knowledge I gained from sessions covering topics such as artificial intelligence in health care, Medicaid and Medicare regulations, and antitrust considerations in health care transactions. Hearing directly from experienced practitioners provided valuable insight into their respective practice areas, giving me a clearer perspective on the different career paths available within health law. Moreover, the connections I made during the conference will serve as an invaluable resource for guidance and mentorship as I navigate the early stages of my career.

Support the Michael F. Anthony Health Law Scholarship Endowment Fund

Your contribution helps build the future of health care law. The Michael F. Anthony Health Law Scholarship Endowment Fund provides critical financial support to exceptional students pursuing careers in health care law. Every donation, regardless of size, creates opportunities and opens doors for deserving scholars.

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