

# KIM BOIKE

## Strengthening Practice for Healthcare, Nonprofit and Corporate Clients

by Dave Argentar

Patients sitting in their physician's office or lying in a hospital bed may not know who Kimberly T. Boike is. They likely won't see how her efforts as both a talented attorney and tireless volunteer profoundly impact their care and treatment. But doctors, hospital administrators, healthcare entrepreneurs, and others throughout Chicagoland who make the practice of medicine their business certainly do.

"I have a hard time picturing my practice without Kim's hard work and guidance," says Dr. Ari Levy, founder and CEO of SHIFT, a concierge medicine practice in Chicago's River North neighborhood.

"Her qualities as a lawyer—the ability to provide clarity and perspective, the diligence and dedication to getting things done—are exceptional. What makes Kim so special, though, are her qualities as a person. She is honest, humble, generous, down to earth and just a pleasure to be around."

A principal at Chuhak & Tecson, P.C., Boike focuses her practice on the representation of businesses and professionals in the healthcare and not-for-profit fields. She was instrumental in establishing the firm's "Not-for-Profit & Mission-Based Organizations" practice group, and she advises healthcare systems, hospitals, senior living providers, physicians and healthcare startups on a multitude of business and compliance issues.

Passionate about helping people and committed as much to her community as she is to her clients, Boike smiles when she thinks about how she originally envisioned her involvement in medicine.

"I headed off to college with every intention of being a doctor," she recalls. "It quickly became apparent, however, that I had absolutely no interest in or particular proclivity for chemistry, which was a huge part of the pre-med curriculum. So, that was that."

### LEARNING THE VALUE OF HARD WORK

While beakers and Bunsen burners may not have sparked Boike's imagination, the values that her dad, a Chicago firefighter, and her mom, a teacher, instilled in her while growing up in Mt. Greenwood on Chicago's South



Side certainly forged her character and fueled her success.

"I've had a job since I was in seventh grade," she remembers. "My parents always told us that if we wanted something for ourselves beyond the basics—like a shirt from Abercrombie & Fitch instead of Kohl's or a CD—we would need to pay for it. What stayed with me wasn't 'if you earn money, you can buy stuff,' but rather the sense of pride that comes from working hard and the satisfaction you feel when you've done a job well or helped someone out."

And Boike did many jobs well throughout her teenage years. She worked at the rectory of her church in grade school before honing her gift-wrapping skills at a local Hallmark store.

She took a job unloading boxes at a floral factory before moving on to what she considers the pinnacle of her pre-legal employment history: working as a barista at Starbucks.

"I just enjoyed meeting so many people, seeing my regulars every day. If and when I retire from practicing law, I can easily see myself back behind that counter," she says, half-jokingly.

It wasn't all work and no play for Boike growing up. The oldest of four children, Boike spent a lot of her childhood enjoying the outdoors, playing softball in Merrionette Park ("with more effort than skill") or swimming with friends in her backyard pool. She has nothing but fond memories of all that time outside, but she says it did have one pop-

cultural downside.

“My parents were pretty strict about limiting TV time, so to this day, my friends give me grief about my total lack of ’80s movie knowledge,” Boike notes.

## IMPACT AND CHALLENGES OF LAW

Her inability to quote lines from *The Breakfast Club* or *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off* notwithstanding, Boike headed off to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where her early vision of becoming a doctor was soon supplanted by her first exposure to the practice of law. After her freshman year, Boike returned to the South Side where she spent her summer working at a real estate law firm owned by the father of one of her college friends. It was a transformative experience.

“We represented a lot of contractors, so we would get to go out and see their projects,” she remembers. “I’d look at this beautiful home or building that just months earlier was a vacant lot, and I’d feel this tremendous sense of satisfaction and accomplishment that I had contributed in some small way to making something from nothing, to achieving this very tangible goal. I knew this was what I wanted to do.”

A prestigious James Scholar at U of I, Boike worked at the law firm during summers and breaks throughout her years in Champaign and continued to do so for a spell when she returned to Chicago to attend Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Befitting of her lifelong love of travel, she spent the summer after her first year of law school studying abroad in Europe, including stints in Rome, Strasbourg, Luxembourg, Brussels and Oxford. She earned a certificate in international law and was envisioning a career in that area when her legal journey took a necessary and fortuitous detour.

“Living and traveling in Europe was an incredible life experience, but it wasn’t cheap,” Boike says. “I came back to Chicago with about \$4 in my bank account. This was not a sustainable situation.”

Boike launched a barrage of cover letters and resumes to almost every Chicago law firm with a posting on Loyola’s job board. One of those firms hired her as a law clerk, and during her second year of law school, Boike first set foot in the offices where she is now a principal.

“Clerking at Chuhak & Tecson exposed me to a wide range of practice areas, as I would get assignments from litigators, estate planning attorneys, tax lawyers, transactional folks,” she recalls. “It allowed me to get a substantive sense of what I enjoyed and found intellectually challenging and, almost as important, what I didn’t.”

Her responsibilities and enthusiasm began to coalesce around the firm’s robust healthcare

law practice, setting her on a course that “just felt right” to her.

“I really like the regulatory aspects of the practice. In healthcare, regulations will usually provide an answer to a given issue or question,” Boike says. “The challenge comes from finding that answer, understanding its nuances and implications, and explaining it to the client in a way that can be of value and inform their decision-making.”

Of course, parsing dense regulatory language and counseling clients weren’t the only appealing aspects of healthcare law for Boike.

“I also liked the idea that I ultimately got to work in medicine, no chemistry required,” she quips.

## NAVIGATING THE HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE

After earning her law degree, Boike joined Chuhak & Tecson as an associate in the firm’s healthcare practice group. She developed her skills and expanded her knowledge base, working closely with several partners including, most impactfully, her mentor Andrew Tecson, leader of the group and former president of the firm.

“Kim has a superb ability to thoroughly analyze complex situations and get to the heart of a matter,” Tecson says. “What makes Kim such a valued counselor is that she leverages her excellent communication skills to distill those complexities and provide clients with concise and understandable guidance. She is always willing to go the extra mile at any time day or night to get a client the information and answers they need.”

Given the ever-changing nature of healthcare law, getting those answers right and keeping her clients abreast of risks as well as opportunities is at the heart of what she does.

“The constant flux in the legal landscape can make the business and practice of medicine an equally constant challenge for our healthcare clients, but as an attorney, I find it exciting and rewarding when I can help my clients understand

and navigate these changes,” she says.

The regulatory aspects of Boike’s practice include advising her clients on HIPAA compliance, fee-splitting prohibitions, federal fraud and abuse laws, Stark Law obligations, and other critical federal and state regulations. She helps clients develop and implement comprehensive compliance policies that minimize potential exposure and enhance client care.

A seasoned business lawyer as well, Boike works with healthcare entrepreneurs to structure new models for healthcare delivery, including direct primary care, the utilization of telemedicine and other new approaches. She also counsels her healthcare clients on tax-exempt bond financings, complex mergers and acquisitions, hospital/physician joint ventures and affiliations, managed care agreements, corporate structuring, and medical staff issues.

While Boike has played a crucial role in countless healthcare-related transactions, she takes particular pride in shepherding the acquisition of a small, safety-net hospital in an underserved community by a larger healthcare system. The deal was critical to keeping the hospital’s doors open. In addition to all of the usual complexities and complications involved in merging two distinct organizations, this particular combination presented unique cultural challenges. While Boike’s hospital client was sponsored and governed by the Catholic faith, it was being acquired by an organization rooted in the Jewish tradition.

“We had a lot of intricate and sensitive conversations about how we were going to have a Catholic hospital operating under Jewish auspices because the Catholic hospital had very strict ethical and religious directives regarding the delivery of healthcare,” she says.

“It was of fundamental importance to the client that the hospital maintain its Catholic identity and approach. That we were able to achieve that and keep this much-needed hospital open and serving patients was extremely gratifying.”



## COMMITMENT TO HER COMMUNITY

Not all of Boike's successful mergers involved healthcare. She met her husband Tim at a party a stone's throw from Wrigley Field, fitting for two Cubs fans whose first apartment together was steps away from the Friendly Confines. The two married in 2014 and now live in the Roscoe Village neighborhood with their daughter, Grace, son, Jack, and dog, Teddy.

A North Side resident since her second year of law school, Boike carried with her the same sense of community she felt growing up in Mt. Greenwood.

"Giving back is an essential part of being a good neighbor and community member," she says. "As I made my home on the North Side of the city, it was important for me to get involved and contribute."

Through one of the firm's clients who was a pastor at Saint Luke Church in the Lakeview neighborhood and a member of several nonprofit boards, Boike got involved in the philanthropic efforts of Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. She joined the hospital's development council over nine years ago and served as its chair, and she also serves on the center's governing council. In addition to her volunteer work at the hospital, she delivered both of her children there as well.

The combination of Boike's personal commitment to service and her professional experience advising healthcare organizations and working with not-for-profit boards has been invaluable to advancing the mission of Illinois Masonic, says Susan Nordstrom Lopez, the president of the hospital.

"Kim is a positive, solution-oriented leader who seeks to find common ground," Lopez says. "She recognizes the complex roles of leaders in administration and mediates between volunteer donors who are eager for new approaches and the staff who must implement them. We're gratified to have a strong legal mind who understands the nature and challenges of our work and holds us to a high standard."

Lopez expresses admiration not only for Boike's skills but also for her confidence, engagement and determination.

"Kim became involved with us when she was relatively young and was not intimidated by older, seasoned hands who were set in their ways," Lopez recalls. "She listens, she learns, and she speaks up when her perspective can constructively shape the discussion. She's fully present during meetings, cares deeply about the success of the medical center, and she's a valuable resource to me, our development staff and her peers on the development and governing councils."

In addition to her work with Illinois Masonic, Boike is also actively involved as a board member of Concordia Place, an organization that focuses on growth and opportunity through economically inclusive early childhood, teen leadership and senior wellness programs.

## BUILDING A NOT-FOR-PROFIT PRACTICE

The symbiotic combination of Boike's philanthropic passions and professional focus were instrumental to her spearheading Chuhak & Tecson's formation of its Not-for-Profit and Mission-Based Organization practice group.

"The firm has this incredible institutional knowledge about working with nonprofits, which form a large portion of our healthcare clients," she says. "It was a natural evolution to deploy that experience across the full range of philanthropic endeavors. I made a proposal to form a new practice group to codify our commitment to these organizations, showcase our capabilities, and better serve clients."

Boike's proposal was met with enthusiasm, and the firm launched the new practice group. She says she wasn't particularly surprised by the receptive response, given the firm's culture of valuing the voices and opinions of all those who work there.

"One of the things about Chuhak & Tecson that has always impressed me and grounded my commitment to the firm is how much everyone's ideas and contributions matter," she says. "Not all of those ideas will necessarily be adopted, but you will be heard, and you'll be treated with respect and interest."

That positive environment and encouragement of individual initiative blended seamlessly with Boike's own approach to her career, and she has been heavily involved in various aspects of the firm's management and governance, serving on its recruitment committee, chairing the associate/paralegal oversight committee, and serving on the marketing committee, where she is currently the chair.

"I don't come to work every day just to show up and bill hours. I'm here to serve my clients, but I also want to make a difference in my workplace, to leave things better than I found them."

Making things better is the essence of what Boike does for her clients, her colleagues and her community, says Tecson.

"Kim is always looking for ways to enhance the firm's suite of services and find new products to better serve clients," he says. "She just brings a positive outlook on life to all of her interactions with everyone who has the privilege to get to know her and work with her." ■