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## Health Care Group Of The Year: Ropes & Gray

By **Adam Lidgett**

Law360 (January 28, 2020, 3:26 PM EST) -- Ropes & Gray LLP attorneys have helped guide a number of health care-related deals over the past year, including working on a merger of two giant New England health insurers, earning its health care lawyers a spot among **Law360's 2019 Health Care Groups of the Year**.



The firm represented Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, a significant health plan in New England, in its combination with the Tufts Health Plan, another large nonprofit, according to Tim McCrystal, co-chair of Ropes & Gray's health care practice and a partner in the firm's Boston office. The merger, which was announced in August and is still going through regulatory review, will serve 2.4 million people, McCrystal told Law360.

The firm said that the deal was challenging partly because of a complicated regulatory process.

McCrystal said that "Harvard Pilgrim is a longtime important client of the firm and has been a mainstay in the New England health plan market since," it was formed, "so the firm is partnering with a long-term client for a significant transaction for that organization."

"It brings together two very high-quality health plans and positions them to work on population health management and respond to changes in the marketplace with respect to health care," McCrystal added. McCrystal said that the two entities had in excess of a combined \$2 billion in annual revenues in 2018.

Ropes & Gray was also counsel to Warburg Pincus, a private equity firm that owned CityMD, in the urgent care provider's merger with multispecialty health care practice Summit Medical Group, according to Deborah Gersh, who is also a co-chair of Ropes & Gray's health care practice.

At the time, CityMD and Summit called the merger a "first-of-its-kind" deal.

Gersh, a partner in the firm's Chicago office, told Law360 that Ropes & Gray represented Warburg Pincus on the health care regulatory component and CityMD on the actual merger, which was finalized in August.

She said the deal was challenging, because New York has a challenging regulatory environment from a health care standpoint, but added that the deal illustrates the combined expertise of the firm's health care and private equity practice groups.

"This is an example of how our clients both in the private equity sector and in the health care and life sciences sectors use us because of that combined expertise," Gersh said.

Ropes & Gray also represented a group of investors, including Bain Capital, in an agreement to acquire U.S. Renal Care Inc. — a deal that was announced in February.

U.S. Renal Care is the third largest dialysis provider in the U.S., according to McCrystal. He said investment in health care and the growth of interest in the health care market by investors is why that agreement is a big deal.

"This is a significant transaction in the health care market given the size of the patient population and the company that was acquired," McCrystal said.

Gersh said there are about 70 attorneys overall in the firm's health care group who work around the country.

In the U.S., the firm has health care attorneys in Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago and San Francisco, according to Gersh. She said the firm also covers China and Europe in the health care arena.

Gersh said health care and life sciences have been important areas for the firm, and as a result, Ropes & Gray has various integrated groups that serve those sectors. She said those groups range from private equity, privacy, intellectual property, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, information technology and digital health.

McCrystal said the health care and life sciences area has grown over the past two years and is a major sector for the firm.

"It's a significant component of the economy both in the U.S. and worldwide," McCrystal said of the health care market. "We have deep expertise in a number of areas where health care and life science organizations need assistance."

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.