



## Sarah Cronan Spurlock

**Title:** Member

**Phone:** 502-681-0461

**Location:** Louisville, KY

**Email:** [sspurlock@stites.com](mailto:sspurlock@stites.com)

**Download:** [vCard](#)

Sarah Cronan Spurlock is a member of the firm's Health Care Service Group and is Co-Chair of the firm's Privacy & Data Security Group. Sarah regularly advises clients on a wide range of health care issues, including fraud and abuse laws, compliance guidance, physician self-referral, physician employment agreements, physician and hospital contracting, technology and general contracting, HIPAA privacy and security, and data breach prevention and response. Her practice includes regulatory and transactional matters and health care litigation. Sarah is a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) and serves as the firm's Chief Privacy Officer.

## CAPABILITIES

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### Practice Areas

- Health Care
- Privacy & Data Security
- Data Center Service Group
- Behavioral Health Care

## RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

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- Successfully obtained summary judgment for a healthcare provider in Jefferson Circuit Court in a putative class action asserting claims for negligence, negligence per se, and invasion of privacy stemming from an alleged data breach disclosing patient information. Judgment was obtained prior to any class being certified.

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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- Kentucky

## RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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- **Under Attack: Experts explain why ransomware is everyone's problem now and detail the best plan of defense**  
by Dawn Marie Yankeelov, *The Lane Report*, pp. 34-38, May 2026 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Attorney-Client Privilege in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**  
speaker, 2026 Issues for Corporate House Counsel, Kentucky Bar Association Corporate House Counsel Section, Louisville, KY, March 26, 2026 ,with [Joshua K. Chesser \(Josh\)](#)
- **Kentucky Supreme Court Clarifies Privilege for Hospital Incident Reports and Root Cause Analyses**  
,with [Ashley W. Ward](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, January 13, 2026
- **Medical Cannabis Seminar**  
panel member, Kentucky Academy of Healthcare Attorneys Webinar, November 13, 2024 ,with [Bailey M. Browning](#), [K. Kelly White Bryant](#), [Jennifer J. Cave](#), [Jackson B. Hurst-Sanders](#) and [Robin E. McGuffin](#)
- **Tips for Defending Against Data Breach Litigation in the US and Abroad**  
co-speaker, International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) 2024 Annual Meeting, July 6-11, 2024
- **The Cost of Third-Party Data Breaches: How to Avoid a Financial Disaster**  
co-speaker, The Knowledge Group Webinar, June 14, 2024 ,with [Chadwick A. McTighe](#)
- **AI in Health Care: Navigating Growth, Risks and Implementation**  
Kentucky Hospital Association Annual Convention, May 20-22, 2024
- **Framework debate shows as Kentucky nears comprehensive privacy law**  
by Joseph Duball, International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP), *The Privacy Advisor*, March 12, 2024
- **US Chamber Urges 6th Circ. To Ax FirstEnergy Class Cert.**  
By Katryna Perera, Law360.com, February 20, 2024 ,with [Bethany A. Breetz](#), [Marjorie A. Farris](#), [Chadwick A. McTighe](#) and [Michael D. Risley](#)
- **Mitigating Hospital Cyber Risks - Ransomware's Impact on Operations and Outcomes**  
Cybersecurity Crisis Management: Strategies for Health Care Professionals, Kentucky Hospital Association, January 23, 2024
- **Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare**  
Stites & Harbison Client Event, November 2, 2023
- **Cybersecurity: The Rising Cost of Cyber Threats**  
by Shannon Clinton, *The Lane Report*, September 25, 2023

- **Mitigating Hospital Cyber Risks - Ransomware's Impact on Operations and Outcomes**  
Kentucky Hospital Association 94th Annual Convention, Lexington, KY, May 15-17, 2023
- **Health Care Providers and Business Associates Beware: Use of Online Tracking Technology May Violate HIPAA**  
Stites & Harbison Client Alert, April 27, 2023
- **Kentucky Lawmakers Considering Comprehensive Data Privacy Legislation**  
Stites & Harbison Client Alert, March 8, 2023
- **Ransomware Threats: Prevention Tips and Response Strategies**  
panelist, American Bar Association, Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section Webinar, February 28, 2023
- **Incident Preparedness: Developing a Program to Respond to Security Incidents**  
Speaker, Data Security and Privacy Symposium, Atlanta, February 8, 2023
- **Call to Action for Critical Infrastructure Businesses – New Federal Cyber Breach Reporting: Obligations and Ransomware Prevention Strategies**  
*Bench & Bar*, Kentucky Bar Association, November/December 2022
- **Patient Inducement Prohibitions: Anti-Kickback and Civil Monetary Penalty Considerations**  
Kentucky Primary Care Association Annual Conference, October 11, 2022
- **Under Attack: Ransomware Threats, Prevention Tips, and Response Strategy for Health Care Providers**  
Revenue Cycle and Compliance Summit, First Healthcare Compliance, June 23, 2022
- **U.S. Privacy And Data Security Developments – Where Do We Go From Here?**  
Mondaq WEBINAR, January 6, 2022
- **Help! They've Hijacked Our Network and They Want Money - Now What? Strategies for Managing the Cyber-Attack**  
Moderator, IADC 2021 Annual Meeting, August 15-19, 2021
- **“No Company is Safe” — White House Urges Private Sector to Act Now in Hardening Defenses Against Growing Ransomware Threats**  
Stites & Harbison Client Alert, June 10, 2021
- **U.S. Privacy and Data Security Developments – Where Do We Go From Here?**  
Webinar, presented by Mondaq, June 3, 2021
- **Data Privacy Day: Scanning Data Privacy Issues for 2021**  
,with [Alexandra MacKay](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, January 29, 2021
- **Liberating Patient Data – Is Your Hospital Ready for the Information Blocking Rule?**  
Webinar, Kentucky Hospital Association, January 26, 2021 ,with [Jennifer Henry Jackson](#)
- **Not Your Grandma's Quilt: Exploring the Current 'Patchwork' and Recent Trends in U.S. Data Privacy and Security Laws**  
Kentucky Bar Association Corporate House Counsel Webinar, November 18, 2020

- **Joint Agency Cyber Alert Warns of Imminent and Credible Ransomware Threat Against U.S. Health Care and Public Health Sectors**  
*,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#) and [Dustyn B. Jones](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, November 2, 2020*
- **Medical Liability Considerations for Physicians**  
*Kentucky Medical Association Virtual Town Hall, September 24, 2020*
- **Eliminating Kickbacks in Recovery Act**  
*Kentucky Health Law Institute, UK CLE, September 2, 2020*
- **The Future of Medicine for the Emerging Physician post COVID-19**  
*Kentucky Medical Association Virtual Annual Meeting, August 22, 2020*
- **Is Telehealth Here to Stay?**  
*Medical News, June 30, 2020 ,with [Jennifer Henry Jackson](#)*
- **OSHA Revises COVID-19 Guidance**  
*,with [Shannon Antle Hamilton](#) Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Client Alert, June 5, 2020*
- **Privacy 2020 – California’s Seismic Shift**  
*Discussion of the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), Southern Law Network, April 16, 2020 ,with [Alisa Micu](#)*
- **OCR Eases HIPAA Burdens for Telehealth during COVID-19 National Emergency**  
*,with [Jennifer Henry Jackson](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, March 18, 2020*
- **Information You Need on the COVID-19 Coronavirus**  
*Stites & Harbison, PLLC March 2020*
- **Shifting Sands of U.S. Privacy Laws**  
*International Association of Defense Counsel Webinar, December 11, 2019*
- **No-fault insurance in Kentucky**  
*,with [K. Kelly White Bryant](#) Medical News, July 8, 2019*
- **Cybersecurity and Data Breach Response for Lawyers: Threats, Prevention Tips, and Mitigation Strategies for Lessening the Risks of a Cyberattack**  
*Kentucky Bar Association Annual Convention, June 12, 2019*
- **Groundhog Day? Supreme Court Strikes Down Class Arbitration Efforts...Again**  
*,with [Chadwick A. McTighe](#) and [Marjorie A. Farris](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, April 30, 2019*
- **The Race to Privacy**  
*Stites & Harbison Thirsty Thursday Speaker Series, April 25, 2019 ,with [Alexandra MacKay](#)*
- **Cyber Security for Rural and Critical Access Hospitals: Tips for Improving Data Security and Mitigating the Impact of a Cyber Attack**  
*Alliant Management Services Management Meeting, April 10, 2019*
- **Introduction to Health Law**  
*Panel member, Health Enterprise Network Healthcare Fellows, University of Louisville Louis D. Brandies School of Law, March 19, 2019 ,with [K. Kelly White Bryant](#)*
- **Taking Stock of Your 2019 Cybersecurity Resolutions**

,with [Jennifer Henry Jackson](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, February 8, 2019

- **Pings That Go Bump in the Night: A Discussion of Health Care, Cybersecurity Threats, Prevention Tips and Mitigation Tactics**  
Moderator and Panelist, 2018 Kentucky Health Law Institute, Lexington, KY, September 14, 2018
- **Telehealth reform: Coverage expansion, reimbursement criteria will improve access to care**  
*Medical News*, June 25, 2018
- **Residents in Business**  
faculty panel, University of Louisville School of Medicine, May 15-17, 2018 ,with [K. Kelly White Bryant](#)
- **Employment Contracting Seminar**  
Kentucky Medical Association, Louisville, Ky., January 27, 2018 ,with [K. Kelly White Bryant](#) and [Dustyn B. Jones](#)
- **Kentucky Supreme Court Declines to Recognize New Tort of "Negligent Credentialing"**  
*Medical News*, November 8, 2017 ,with [Bethany A. Breetz](#)
- **Leadership in Action: Take the Lead in Solving the Opioid Epidemic**  
2017 Kentucky Medical Association Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, August 25, 2017
- **Cyber Threats & Ransomware**  
Kentucky Academy of Hospital Attorneys, Kentucky Hospital Association Annual Convention, May 29, 2017
- **Digital Fortress**  
*Modern Steel Construction*, May 2017 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Residents in Business**  
faculty panel, University of Louisville School of Medicine, May 15-16, 2017 ,with [K. Kelly White Bryant](#)
- **Cybersecurity for business: Improving data security and mitigating the impact of a cyber-attack**  
Kentucky Society of CPAs Spring Business Conference, Louisville, KY, April 20, 2017
- **Be Cyberwise: Protect & Position Your Business for Growth**  
Ohio River Valley Women's Business Council, 2017 Catch the Wave Conference, April 18, 2017
- **The Interplay Between Social Media and Healthcare Privacy**  
American Bar Association Regional CLE, Brave New World: Emerging Cyber and Electronic Issues in Health Care Litigation, March 31, 2017
- **Kentucky Health: Shadowing a Primary Care Physician**  
Kentucky Health, PBS.com, March 26, 2017
- **Improving Data Security and Mitigating the Impact of a Cyber-Attack**  
Kentucky Medical Group Management Association Spring Conference, March 16, 2017
- **Under Attack: Cyber Threats Against the Health Care Industry**  
presentation, Kentucky Health Law Institute, September 15, 2016
- **Passwords, Revisited**  
*The Goods*, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, September 2016

- **Build a Better Machine**  
 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#) *The Goods*, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, July 2016
- **Residents in Business**  
 faculty panel, University of Louisville School of Medicine and Greater Louisville Medical Society, May 24-26, 2016 ,  
 with [K. Kelly White Bryant](#)
- **Stop. Think. Connect.**  
 presentation, Stites & Harbison Summer Associate Program, May 16, 2016 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Law Firm Data Security: It's the End of the World As We Know It (And I Don't Feel Fine)**  
 presentation, Southern Law Network, Louisville, Kentucky, May 13, 2016 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Don't Bet on Longshots - Practical Advice on Data Security for Financial Institutions**  
 Stites & Harbison Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy Service Group Day at the Races, Keeneland, April 14, 2016 ,with  
[Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Identifying and Protecting Your Core Data**  
*The Goods* (p.36), Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, March 2016 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **OCR Launches Phase 2 HIPAA Audits via Email Destined for Your Spam Folder**  
 ,with [Dustyn B. Jones](#) Stites & Harbison Legal Update, March 24, 2016
- **Data Breaching Now Its Own Industry**  
 by Robert Hadley, *The Lane Report*, December 8, 2015 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Data Breaches: Is Your Attitude about Data Security Putting You and Your Company at Risk?**  
*The Goods* (p. 16), Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, November 2015 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Employee Attitudes Fuel Your Data Security Plan**  
*Legaltech News*, October 29, 2015 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Are you ready for a HIPAA Audit?**  
 Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities Webinar, October 21, 2015
- **Technology Highlights for the Restructuring Professional: Privacy, Data Security & Electronic Discovery**  
 co-presenter, International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) Day at Keeneland,  
 October 9, 2015
- **Data breaches: Is your attitude about data security putting you and your company at risk?**  
*Inside Counsel*, September 24, 2015 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Privacy & Data Security – April 23, 2015**  
 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#) Keeneland, April 23, 2015
- **Data Breaches: Is Your Attitude about Data Security Putting You and Your Company at Risk?**  
 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, July 21, 2015
- **Data breaches: Is your attitude about data security putting you and your company at risk?**  
*Medical News*, July 6, 2015 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)

- **Prevention and Response: Is Your Business Prepared for a Data Security Breach?**  
Stites & Harbison, PLLC Thirsty Thursday networking event, May 21, 2015 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Are your employees putting your organization at risk for a cyber-attack?**  
,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, April 3, 2015
- **Is your attitude about data security putting you and your company at risk?**  
Professional Insight, *Business First of Louisville*, March 27, 2015 ,with [Ian T. Ramsey](#)
- **Target Data Breach Opens Potential Recovery Path for Financial Institutions**  
,with [Brian R. Pollock](#) and [Ian T. Ramsey](#) Stites & Harbison Client Alert, March 4, 2015
- **Hot Topics in the Area of Health Law Privacy**  
Kentucky Health Law Institute, November 7, 2013
- **HIPAA Wants You**  
Stites & Harbison Thirsty Thursday networking event, July 25, 2013
- **Final Rule Amending HIPAA Regulations**  
Stites & Harbison Client Alert, January 21, 2013
- **Physician Employment Contracting Symposium**  
co-presenter, Kentucky Medical Association, November 3, 2012 ,with [K. Kelly White Bryant](#)
- **Turning up the heat on HIPAA compliance: What to expect from increase enforcement and Office for Civil Rights audits**  
co-author, Louisville Bar Association's *Bar Briefs*, November 2012
- **HIPAA Update for Physician Office Managers**  
Kentucky Pediatric Office Managers Association, October 11, 2012
- **Stolen laptop leads to \$1.5 million HIPAA settlement**  
Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Client Alert, September 26, 2012
- **HIPAA and HITECH's Impact on Certified Public Accountants**  
Kentucky Society of CPAs Healthcare Conference, May 16, 2012
- **Keeping up with technology demands: Delayed deadlines for Meaningful Use and ICD-10 reflect overburdened healthcare providers**  
*Medical News*, April 2012
- **HIPAA Audits and Investigations - What to expect when the Office for Civil Rights comes knocking**  
Louisville Bar Association, Health Law Section, April 11, 2012
- **Make Way for Medicaid Managed Care: What to expect as Kentucky departs from traditional fee-for-service reimbursement in favor of managed care for Medicaid recipients across the Commonwealth**  
Louisville Bar Association's *Bar Briefs*, November 2011 ,with [Elizabeth Ann Johnson \(Betsy\)](#)
- **HITECH Challenges for Physicians: Keeping Up with Changes to Health Information Privacy and Security Rules in an Expanding Electronic Environment**

Kentucky Medical Association, August 23, 2011

- **HIPAA and Social Media Issues for Employers, Hot Topics and Critical Issues Pertinent to Employers and Health Care Providers**

Health Law and Labor & Employment Sections, Louisville Bar Association, June 2, 2011

- **HITECH's Amendments to HIPAA: Recent Changes to Health Information Privacy and Security Rules and their Impact on State Regulatory Investigations**

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Annual Conference on Occupational Therapy State Regulation, October 23, 2010

- **HIPAA Update for Employers**

Society of Human Resources Management Mid-West Kentucky Chapter, Madisonville, Ky., April 2010

- **How will the HITECH Act affect your law firm?**

Louisville Bar Association, Health Law Section, April 28, 2010

- **EMTALA**

The Regional Medical Center of Hopkins County, Madisonville, Ky., March 2010

- **Current Trend: Employment of Physicians by Hospitals**

*2010 Health Law and Compliance Update 1-2* (John Steiner ed., 2010)

- **Grounding Cyberspeech: Public Schools' Authority to Discipline Students for Internet Activity**

*97 Kentucky Law Journal* 149 (2008)

## FIRM LEADERSHIP

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- Chief Privacy Officer
- Privacy & Data Security Practice Group, Co-Chair
- Office of General Counsel, as Chief Privacy Officer

## MEMBERSHIPS

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- American Bar Association,
  - Health Law Section
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association,
  - Health Law Section, Chair (2011)
- American Health Law Association

- International Association of Privacy Professionals
- International Association of Defense Counsel,
  - Chair of the Membership Committee (2025)
  - Cyber Security, Data Privacy and Technology Committee, Past Chair

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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- Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, Board of Directors (2018-present)
- Louisville Legal Aid Society, Volunteer (2009-16)
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Inc., Board of Directors (2011-16)
- Focus Louisville, February 2016 Class

## EDUCATION

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- University of Kentucky College of Law J.D., *magna cum laude* 2009
- Indiana University B.A., Sociology, 2000

## MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

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Sarah joined Stites & Harbison in September of 2009 after participating in the firm's summer associate program in 2008. In the summer of 2007, she worked in the legal department at Brown-Forman Corporation in Louisville. Before law school, Sarah lived in New York City where she worked at Friedman, Wang & Bleiberg, P.C. as a paralegal, and Lehman Brothers, Inc. in human resources supporting the information technology division. Sarah is an accomplished equestrian and enjoys riding American Saddlebred horses in her free time.

## ACCOLADES

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- *Best Lawyers in America*® , Health Care Law (2019-26)
- *Business First of Louisville*, 20 People to Know in Law (2018)
- *Business First of Louisville*, Partners in Health Care People to Watch (2014)