



# Workshop Instructors

*Committed to Keeping You Informed*

**Jeff Podraza, Esquire**  
**Account Executive**

As Managing Attorney and Executive Program Director at AHC, Mr. Podraza helps to ensure that each engagement AHC has taken on is a successful one. In addition to working with AHC's clients on day-to-day basis to enhance recovery on accounts receivables, he conducts health insurance reimbursement workshops for health systems and organizations nationwide. Mr. Podraza has been a member of AHC's Legal Research Department, and continues to track changes in state and federal law which impact the healthcare industry, as well as researching and responding to legal and regulatory questions posed by AHC's clients. Prior to joining AHC's Client Management Department, Mr. Podraza was a Senior Attorney in AHC's Problem Claims Department.

Mr. Podraza is licensed to practice law in the State of Maryland. Mr. Podraza graduated from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law. While attending law school, Mr. Podraza was a Summer Associate for the United States General Accounting Office, and worked for the law offices of Michael L. Pullen, P.A.

**Joseph S. Partain, Esquire**  
**Senior Vice President & General Counsel**

As Senior Vice President and General Counsel of AHC, Inc., Mr. Partain is responsible for the daily management and oversight of AHC's Legal Department. Mr. Partain is responsible for high dollar insurance recovery and negotiated resolution of disputed cases, as well as management of local counsel in litigation cases. He directs and coordinates accounts in litigation, including handling pre-litigation actions, third-party liability, and receivership accounts, as well as other industrial and commercial accounts and special projects. As General Counsel, Mr. Partain is responsible for all legal issues involving AHC.

Mr. Partain received a Bachelor's degree, with honors, from Bradley University, and a Juris Doctorate, with honors, from Drake University School of Law. He has ten years of experience in the legal, collections and healthcare fields. Prior to joining AHC, Mr. Partain completed a Graduate Judicial Clerkship with the Montana Supreme Court and then joined a litigation law firm as a trial attorney. Mr. Partain is a member of the Virginia Bar, the Montana State Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, the Nebraska State Bar, the Fourth Circuit and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeal, the American Bar Association, and the American Bar Association Health Law Section. Ms. Partain was recognized by HFMA as an ANI Distinguished Speaker for his presentation at both 2005 and 2006 national conferences

**Kathryn Cook, Esquire**  
**Account Executive**

As Senior Attorney and Executive Program Director at AHC, Ms. Cook works closely with many of AHC's clients to ensure the highest degree of satisfaction is being attained on a daily basis. Ms. Cook has been with AHC since 2003. Prior to becoming Executive Program Director, Ms. Cook served as Senior Attorney of AHC's Discrepancy Program. In this role, Ms. Cook was responsible for managing a team of attorneys working closely with AHC's clients and their payers to solve underpayment issues.

Ms. Cook graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Ms. Cook received her Juris Doctorate from the TC Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond. Ms. Cook is licensed to practice law in Virginia.



**Michael E. Berger**

**Executive Director of Revenue Cycle Services**

Mr. Berger has a Masters Degree in Health Care Policy and Administration. He is a recognized expert and frequent speaker, nationally, in the areas of revenue cycle operations, denial management, cash acceleration, third-party provider relations/contract negotiation, operational and organizational "best practices" development, staffing level analysis, training, and the development/implementation of state-of-the-art denial management technology.

Mr. Berger's health care career spans in excess of twenty years in both the healthcare provider and consulting industries. He has supported a wide spectrum of providers and related business environments including academic medical centers, home health agencies, post acute/long-term care facilities, freestanding outpatient facilities, physician organizations, and accounts receivable financing/purchasing groups.