

# Louise “Wendy” F. Pongracz

## Partner

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Wendy has represented health benefits plans for more than thirty (30) years. She represents large and small single- and multi-employer group health plans in the public and private sectors. Her practice has included assisting fund clients at every step, from establishing plans through termination and merger. This includes drafting and revising foundational and operational documents, advising clients on all aspects of compliance with federal and state laws (ERISA, COBRA, HIPAA, and applicable federal tax requirements). She is an experienced and aggressive negotiator on behalf of her clients with medical, prescription and other benefits providers as well as with professional providers. She and her colleagues collaborate to stay abreast of statutory environment changes to ensure that their compliance advice to clients is unsurpassed.

Wendy also speaks frequently on compliance issues, fiduciary obligations, and emerging health benefits issues for the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans as well as for state and local bar foundations and other organizations.

### WHAT INSPIRES ME ABOUT MY WORK

“The key to financial security for most workers is robust health benefits coverage. For the past 30 years, I have worked hard and been inspired to master this complex and ever-changing area of the law. I want our clients to know that when they or their families need health care, it will be available and accessible to them.”

### AWAY FROM WORK

“I garden, but not well. I like birds, but I’m not a good birder. I enjoy following the interesting lives my two grown twins are leading. I have a deep and abiding interest in ongoing history. I read and enjoy presidential biographies and have always had an interest in Rome and the transition between the Republic and the Empire.”



## **Practice Areas**

- Grievance and Interest Arbitration
- Union Officer Training and Education
- Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)
- Collective Bargaining and Negotiations
- Employee Benefits

## **Education**

- Northeastern University School of Law (J.D. , 1985)
- Bucknell University (B.A. *cum laude*, 1980)

## **Associations**

### Professional

- American Bar Association, 1985 to Present
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, 1989 to Present
- Philadelphia Bar Association, 1989 to Present