

## Health Care Alert – November 2009

### FEATURED ATTORNEY



**Michael S. Kelton**

Of Counsel

Recently, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield sent out letters notifying New York physicians of an incident where an employee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association had his personal laptop stolen. That laptop contained personally identifiable provider information, including name, address, tax ID number, Social Security number and National Provider Identifier, for nearly every physician who accepts Blue Cross. Empire has acknowledged that the employee's conduct in downloading such highly confidential information onto his personal laptop violated the Association's policies, and Empire has stated that the Association "has taken full responsibility for the incident".

If you believe your personal information may have been on the stolen computer, or if you have already received such a letter from Empire, or if you believe you may have been the subject of any unauthorized or fraudulent activity resulting from this breach, please contact our office regarding your legal rights with respect to the Association's admitted liability for this breach.

If you have any questions about this or any other legal issue, please call Michael S. Kelton, Esq. at **(212) 279-9200** or you can email him at [mkelton@abramslaw.com](mailto:mkelton@abramslaw.com)