

For Immediate Release
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**AHLA Secures Contribution from the
 American Society of Healthcare Risk Management**

(WASHINGTON, DC) - The Public Interest Committee of the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA) has secured a \$45,000 contribution from the American Society of Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM) in support of a research project that will address the new types of Serious Safety events and related malpractice liability that can result from the implementation of electronic health records.

AHLA's year-long research project, the first of its kind, will produce tools that healthcare providers can use to minimize electronic health record (EHR) related medical errors, including a checklist that will help identify such errors and best practices guidelines to help minimize the occurrence of EHR-related errors in the first place. In addition, the researchers will craft a list of "dashboard indicators" for use by governing bodies in their quality oversight.

Elisabeth Belmont, Esq., Corporate Counsel for MaineHealth in Portland, ME and a Past President of AHLA, and **Dean F. Sittig, Ph.D.**, a Professor in the School of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Texas, Health Sciences Center at Houston and a member of the UT-Memorial Hermann Center for Healthcare Quality & Safety will serve as the Co-Principal Investigators for this research project.

"Every new innovation or technology that has the potential to achieve massive improvements also carries with it the possibility for unintended consequences or risks," said AHLA's CEO **Peter M. Leibold**. "AHLA and ASHRM serve the public interest when they explore such risks and provide healthcare providers and professionals the tools to prevent or mitigate them, ultimately benefitting vulnerable patients."

As a result of recent governmental incentives for healthcare institutions and medical practices to implement EHR systems under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, healthcare providers are in the process of developing and implementing new software technologies. The proliferation of new vendors and various clinical information systems has led to new and different types of errors that, if not guarded against, can lead to Serious Safety events.

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About the American Health Lawyers Association

The American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA) is the nation's largest nonpartisan educational organization devoted to legal issues in the healthcare field. The Association's 11,000 members practice in a variety of settings in the healthcare community. For information about our resources, publications, and educational offerings, visit www.healthlawyers.org. Follow AHLA on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#).

About the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management

The American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM) is a personal membership group of the American Hospital Association. AHSRM promotes effective and innovative risk management strategies and professional leadership through education, advocacy, publications, networking and interactions with leading healthcare organizations and government agencies. www.ashrm.org