

Compliance TODAY

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**HCCA's interns built
a robust library of 2,000
compliance documents for you**

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by Roy Snell, CHC, CCEP-F

You just might not be a compliance expert if...

Please don't hesitate to call me about anything any time.

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Snell

There was an interesting article by an outside counsel recently published in the *Corporate Counsel* blog. The author has written about the compliance profession on a couple occasions. In his article he called for standards and credentialing in the compliance profession. The Compliance Officer Code of Conduct was developed many years ago, tens of thousands of copies were distributed, and it has been translated into 11 other languages. Apparently he missed every one of them, the associated presentations, the articles about the Code, and postings on the Code on compliance professionals' social media sites. In September, we certified our 6,000th compliance professional. Apparently, he has not met any one of these 6,000 professionals.

It's not just this guy who has me frustrated. The leadership of our companies has these people in their ear telling them how to run compliance all the time. The compliance officer's job is hard enough without so-called "experts" advising our leadership about our role. I know plenty of people who understand our profession even though they have not held the position. They have sat through countless sessions at compliance conferences, spent hundreds of hours with compliance professionals, read the Code, and some have been certified. This guy... clearly... is not that guy.

Another prominent former GC has opined on the reporting relationship of the compliance officer even though he never held the position, never had formal compliance education, and never spent a material amount of time with compliance professionals.

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The HCCA *Code of Ethics for Health Care Compliance Professionals* gives general guidance regarding the role of healthcare compliance professionals. I suggest these people find it and read it. There are a hundred compliance conferences each year; I suggest they go to a few of them. Having knowledge about the law doesn't make you a compliance expert. The job of a compliance officer is hard enough without having to deal with these people. It's hard enough to get leadership to do the right thing without these people opining on our role or the implementation of compliance programs. Let me help the so-called experts out. If you have not spent a great deal of time with our profession or held the position of compliance officer or had formal education in compliance profession, you just might not be a compliance expert. ☐