

## **NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES SWEEPING HEALTH CARE FRAUD REFORM LEGISLATION**

The New York State Legislature recently enacted tough new health care fraud provisions intended to strengthen the state's Medicaid enforcement efforts. This bill mandates the reorganization of the state's anti-healthcare-fraud system by creating an independent Medicaid inspector general's office that will oversee all Medicaid fraud detection, prevention, and recovery efforts. In addition, the legislation contains provisions directly affecting health care providers, including a requirement that virtually all Medicaid providers must implement a health care compliance program in accordance with the state's requirements.

Finally, this bill creates new criminal offenses for health care fraud against public as well as private health care plans. Academic subscribers in New York should take note of this legislation because it not only will result in increased Medicaid fraud enforcement efforts but also will impose a new mandate regarding health care compliance programs that goes well beyond federal law.