

VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD

VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD IS A CENTRAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND HEALTHCARE STANDARDS THROUGHOUT VERMONT. THIS BOARD PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN LICENSING PHYSICIANS, INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS, AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC TRUST IN THE MEDICAL FIELD. IN THIS COMPREHENSIVE ARTICLE, WE WILL EXPLORE THE STRUCTURE, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD. READERS WILL LEARN HOW THE BOARD ENSURES QUALITY CARE, HANDLES DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS, AND SUPPORTS BOTH HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS. THE ARTICLE ALSO COVERS THE LICENSING PROCESS, CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, AND THE STEPS INVOLVED WHEN A COMPLAINT IS FILED AGAINST A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL. WHETHER YOU ARE A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER, PATIENT, OR SOMEONE INTERESTED IN VERMONT'S MEDICAL REGULATIONS, THIS GUIDE OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND ITS IMPACT ON THE HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE. LET'S DELVE INTO THE DETAILS THAT MAKE THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF HEALTHCARE GOVERNANCE IN THE STATE.

- OVERVIEW OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD
- STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE OF THE BOARD
- LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS
- DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION
- CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
- IMPACT ON VERMONT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
- RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

OVERVIEW OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD

THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD SERVES AS THE REGULATORY BODY THAT GOVERNS THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE WITHIN THE STATE. ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY BY ENSURING THAT ALL PRACTICING PHYSICIANS AND CERTAIN ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS MEET STRINGENT QUALIFICATIONS AND ADHERE TO ETHICAL STANDARDS. THE BOARD OPERATES UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY VERMONT STATE LAW AND IS TASKED WITH MAINTAINING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INTEGRITY IN MEDICAL PRACTICE. BY SETTING CLEAR GUIDELINES AND MONITORING COMPLIANCE, THE BOARD HELPS PREVENT MALPRACTICE AND FOSTERS TRUST BETWEEN PATIENTS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE OF THE BOARD

THE GOVERNANCE OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD IS STRUCTURED TO PROMOTE FAIRNESS AND EXPERTISE. THE BOARD COMPRISES A DIVERSE GROUP OF MEMBERS, INCLUDING LICENSED PHYSICIANS, PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES, AND SOMETIMES OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS. EACH MEMBER IS APPOINTED BASED ON THEIR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE, ENSURING A WELL-ROUNDED PERSPECTIVE FOR DECISION-MAKING. THE BOARD REGULARLY MEETS TO REVIEW CASES, UPDATE POLICIES, AND ADDRESS EMERGING HEALTHCARE ISSUES. ITS ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK SUPPORTS COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING AND UPHOLDS THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

MEMBERS OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD ARE ENTRUSTED WITH SEVERAL CRITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THEY EVALUATE LICENSE APPLICATIONS, REVIEW COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, AND DETERMINE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS. BOARD MEMBERS ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES THAT SHAPE MEDICAL PRACTICE IN VERMONT. THEIR COLLECTIVE EXPERTISE ENSURES THAT DECISIONS ARE MADE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC WHILE SUPPORTING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY.

APPOINTMENT AND TERMS

BOARD MEMBERS ARE USUALLY APPOINTED BY STATE OFFICIALS, AND THEIR TERMS MAY VARY DEPENDING ON THE POSITION AND STATE LAWS. THESE APPOINTMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE CONTINUITY AND ALLOW FOR THE ROTATION OF EXPERTISE. SOME MEMBERS SERVE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, PROVIDING STABILITY AND INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE, WHILE OTHERS MAY BE APPOINTED FOR SHORTER PERIODS TO INTRODUCE NEW PERSPECTIVES.

LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS

SECURING A MEDICAL LICENSE FROM THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD IS A COMPREHENSIVE PROCESS THAT ENSURES ONLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS ARE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE. THE BOARD REQUIRES APPLICANTS TO MEET RIGOROUS EDUCATIONAL, TRAINING, AND EXAMINATION STANDARDS, WHICH INCLUDE GRADUATION FROM ACCREDITED MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF RESIDENCY PROGRAMS. APPLICANTS MUST ALSO PASS RECOGNIZED NATIONAL EXAMS SUCH AS THE USMLE OR COMLEX, DEPENDING ON THEIR SPECIALTY.

STEPS FOR PHYSICIAN LICENSURE

- COMPLETE MEDICAL EDUCATION FROM AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION
- FULFILL RESIDENCY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
- PASS NATIONAL LICENSING EXAMINATIONS
- SUBMIT A FORMAL APPLICATION TO THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD
- PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AND BACKGROUND CHECKS
- UNDERGO REVIEW BY THE BOARD FOR ELIGIBILITY AND COMPLIANCE
- RECEIVE APPROVAL AND OFFICIAL LICENSURE FROM THE BOARD

RENEWAL AND MAINTENANCE OF LICENSURE

LICENSED PHYSICIANS MUST PERIODICALLY RENEW THEIR CREDENTIALS TO REMAIN IN GOOD STANDING. RENEWAL INVOLVES FULFILLING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, SUBMITTING UPDATED INFORMATION, AND CONFIRMING COMPLIANCE WITH VERMONT'S MEDICAL REGULATIONS. THIS PROCESS HELPS ENSURE THAT MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS REMAIN INFORMED ABOUT CURRENT BEST PRACTICES AND ADVANCEMENTS IN HEALTHCARE.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD IS ITS AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AND ENFORCE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS WHEN NECESSARY. THE BOARD RECEIVES AND REVIEWS COMPLAINTS FROM PATIENTS, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, AND OTHER SOURCES. INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONDUCTED WITH STRICT ADHERENCE TO DUE PROCESS, ENSURING FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS MAY RANGE FROM WARNINGS AND FINES TO SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF A MEDICAL LICENSE, DEPENDING ON THE SEVERITY AND NATURE OF THE VIOLATION.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION PROCESS

WHEN A COMPLAINT IS FILED, THE BOARD INITIATES A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW. THIS INCLUDES GATHERING EVIDENCE, INTERVIEWING INVOLVED PARTIES, AND CONSULTING WITH EXPERTS IF NEEDED. THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS IS CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL A FINAL DETERMINATION IS MADE TO PROTECT BOTH THE COMPLAINANT AND THE ACCUSED PROFESSIONAL. IF A VIOLATION IS CONFIRMED, THE BOARD IMPOSES SANCTIONS DESIGNED TO UPHOLD MEDICAL STANDARDS AND PREVENT FUTURE ISSUES.

TYPES OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- REPRIMAND OR WARNING ISSUED TO THE PRACTITIONER
- FINES OR FINANCIAL PENALTIES
- MANDATED REMEDIATION OR EDUCATION
- PROBATION WITH MONITORING REQUIREMENTS
- TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF MEDICAL LICENSE
- PERMANENT REVOCATION OF LICENSE

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

TO MAINTAIN HIGH-QUALITY CARE, THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD REQUIRES LICENSED PROFESSIONALS TO ENGAGE IN CONTINUING EDUCATION. THESE REQUIREMENTS ENSURE THAT PRACTITIONERS REMAIN CURRENT WITH MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS, ETHICAL GUIDELINES, AND REGULATORY CHANGES. THE BOARD ESTABLISHES MINIMUM ANNUAL OR BIENNIAL EDUCATION HOURS, OFTEN FOCUSING ON SPECIALTY-SPECIFIC TOPICS AND EMERGING HEALTHCARE TRENDS.

APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN VERMONT CAN FULFILL THEIR CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH VARIOUS APPROVED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ATTENDING ACCREDITED CONFERENCES, PARTICIPATING IN WORKSHOPS, COMPLETING ONLINE COURSES, AND ENGAGING IN RESEARCH OR PUBLICATION. THE BOARD REGULARLY UPDATES THE LIST OF ACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES AND MONITORS COMPLIANCE DURING LICENSE RENEWAL.

UPHOLDING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD ENFORCES A CODE OF CONDUCT THAT GUIDES MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING, PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY, AND CLINICAL COMPETENCY. ADHERENCE TO THESE STANDARDS IS MONITORED THROUGH PERIODIC ASSESSMENTS, COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS, AND PEER REVIEWS. MAINTAINING HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IS ESSENTIAL FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE REPUTATION OF VERMONT'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

IMPACT ON VERMONT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD HAS A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF HEALTHCARE THROUGHOUT THE STATE. BY REGULATING ENTRY INTO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND MONITORING ONGOING PERFORMANCE, THE BOARD ENSURES THAT ONLY COMPETENT, ETHICAL PROFESSIONALS SERVE THE PUBLIC. ITS WORK SUPPORTS PATIENT RIGHTS, PROMOTES TRANSPARENCY, AND HELPS PREVENT MEDICAL ERRORS. THE BOARD'S INITIATIVES OFTEN INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY, DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY, AND FOSTER COLLABORATION AMONG HEALTH INSTITUTIONS.

IMPROVING PATIENT TRUST AND SAFETY

THROUGH STRICT OVERSIGHT AND RESPONSIVE COMPLAINT RESOLUTION, THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD BUILDS PUBLIC TRUST IN HEALTHCARE SERVICES. PATIENTS CAN FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THEIR CONCERNS WILL BE HEARD AND ADDRESSED, AND THAT PRACTITIONERS ARE HELD TO HIGH STANDARDS. THIS TRUST IS FOUNDATIONAL TO A HEALTHY PATIENT-PROVIDER RELATIONSHIP AND EFFECTIVE MEDICAL CARE.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

TO HELP PRACTITIONERS SUCCEED, THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD OFFERS A RANGE OF RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES. THESE INCLUDE GUIDANCE ON REGULATORY COMPLIANCE, ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, AND ASSISTANCE DURING THE LICENSING PROCESS. THE BOARD ALSO PROVIDES INFORMATION ON LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND UPDATES ON RELEVANT HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION.

SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERED

- GUIDANCE ON LICENSURE AND RENEWAL PROCEDURES
- UPDATES ON REGULATORY CHANGES AND NEW LAWS
- ACCESS TO CONTINUING EDUCATION RESOURCES
- ASSISTANCE WITH COMPLAINT OR DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES
- INFORMATION ON ETHICAL GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD WORKS CLOSELY WITH OTHER STATE AND NATIONAL AGENCIES TO ENSURE COHESIVE HEALTHCARE REGULATION. THIS COLLABORATION INCLUDES SHARING INFORMATION, COORDINATING INVESTIGATIONS, AND

SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES. SUCH PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN VERMONT'S HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITATE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.

TRENDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD

Q: WHAT IS THE MAIN ROLE OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD?

A: THE MAIN ROLE OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD IS TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN VERMONT BY LICENSING PHYSICIANS, INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS, AND ENFORCING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.

Q: HOW DOES A PHYSICIAN OBTAIN A MEDICAL LICENSE FROM THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD?

A: PHYSICIANS MUST COMPLETE ACCREDITED MEDICAL EDUCATION, FULFILL RESIDENCY TRAINING, PASS NATIONAL LICENSING EXAMS, AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO THE BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

Q: WHAT TYPES OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS CAN THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD TAKE?

A: THE BOARD CAN ISSUE WARNINGS, IMPOSE FINES, MANDATE EDUCATION, PLACE PRACTITIONERS ON PROBATION, SUSPEND LICENSES, OR REVOKE MEDICAL LICENSES BASED ON THE SEVERITY OF THE VIOLATION.

Q: HOW ARE COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS HANDLED IN VERMONT?

A: COMPLAINTS ARE INVESTIGATED CONFIDENTIALLY BY THE BOARD, WHICH COLLECTS EVIDENCE, INTERVIEWS PARTIES, AND DETERMINES APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES IF A VIOLATION IS FOUND.

Q: WHAT ARE THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VERMONT PHYSICIANS?

A: PHYSICIANS IN VERMONT MUST COMPLETE A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS, FOCUSING ON RELEVANT MEDICAL TOPICS, ETHICS, AND REGULATORY UPDATES AS SET BY THE BOARD.

Q: WHO APPOINTS MEMBERS TO THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD?

A: MEMBERS ARE TYPICALLY APPOINTED BY VERMONT STATE OFFICIALS, ENSURING A DIVERSE AND QUALIFIED GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES SERVE ON THE BOARD.

Q: WHAT RESOURCES DOES THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD PROVIDE TO MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS?

A: THE BOARD OFFERS GUIDANCE ON LICENSURE, UPDATES ON REGULATIONS, CONTINUING EDUCATION RESOURCES, ASSISTANCE WITH COMPLAINTS, AND INFORMATION ON ETHICAL STANDARDS.

Q: CAN THE PUBLIC VIEW DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD?

A: YES, CERTAIN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND SANCTIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC TO MAINTAIN TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST IN VERMONT'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

Q: WHY IS THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD IMPORTANT FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY?

A: THE BOARD'S OVERSIGHT ENSURES THAT ONLY QUALIFIED, ETHICAL PROFESSIONALS PRACTICE MEDICINE, HELPING TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS AND PROTECT PATIENT SAFETY IN VERMONT.

Q: DOES THE VERMONT MEDICAL PRACTICE BOARD COLLABORATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES?

A: YES, THE BOARD WORKS WITH OTHER STATE AND NATIONAL AGENCIES TO COORDINATE HEALTHCARE REGULATION, INVESTIGATIONS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES.

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Navigating the Vermont Medical Practice Board: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction:

Are you a medical professional in Vermont, or are you considering practicing medicine in the Green Mountain State? Understanding the Vermont Medical Practice Board (VMPB) is crucial. This comprehensive guide will delve into the VMPB's roles, responsibilities, and the processes involved in interacting with this essential regulatory body. We'll cover everything from licensing requirements to disciplinary actions, ensuring you have the knowledge you need to navigate the Vermont medical landscape confidently. This post aims to be your ultimate resource for understanding the Vermont Medical Practice Board.

Understanding the Vermont Medical Practice Board's Role (VMPB)

The Vermont Medical Practice Board is the state agency responsible for overseeing the licensing, regulation, and discipline of physicians, physician assistants, and other healthcare professionals within Vermont. Their primary goal is to protect the public by ensuring competent and ethical medical care. This involves a multifaceted approach, encompassing several key areas.

Licensing and Certification

The VMPB manages the licensing and certification process for healthcare professionals, meticulously reviewing applications and ensuring applicants meet stringent educational, experience, and examination requirements. This rigorous process aims to guarantee only qualified individuals practice medicine in Vermont. The board also handles the renewal of licenses, ensuring ongoing compliance with state regulations.

Enforcement of Standards of Practice

Beyond initial licensing, the VMPB plays a crucial role in upholding the standards of medical practice within the state. This involves investigating complaints against healthcare providers, conducting hearings, and issuing disciplinary actions when necessary. These actions can range from probation to license suspension or revocation, depending on the severity of the infraction.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Requirements

Maintaining a current medical license often necessitates participation in continuing medical education (CME) programs. The VMPB outlines the specific CME requirements for various healthcare professions in Vermont, ensuring practitioners stay abreast of the latest medical advancements and best practices.

Interacting with the Vermont Medical Practice Board

Knowing how to interact effectively with the VMPB is vital. Whether you're applying for a license, facing a complaint, or simply seeking clarification on a regulation, understanding the board's

procedures is crucial.

Applying for a Vermont Medical License

The application process is comprehensive and demands meticulous attention to detail. Applicants must provide extensive documentation, including educational transcripts, references, and criminal background checks. The VMPB website provides detailed instructions and downloadable application forms. Failing to comply with the specified requirements can lead to significant delays or rejection of the application.

Responding to Complaints and Investigations

If you are the subject of a complaint filed with the VMPB, prompt and professional response is paramount. Cooperating fully with the investigation and retaining legal counsel are recommended steps. Ignoring or delaying responses can negatively impact the outcome of the investigation.

Understanding Disciplinary Actions

The VMPB has the authority to impose various disciplinary actions, from reprimands to license revocation. The severity of the punishment depends on the nature and severity of the violation. Understanding the potential consequences of unprofessional conduct is essential for all healthcare professionals in Vermont.

Resources for Navigating the VMPB

The Vermont Medical Practice Board provides numerous resources on its website to assist healthcare professionals and the public. These resources include:

Online Application Portal: Simplifying the application process for licenses and renewals.

Detailed Licensing Requirements: Clear guidelines and requirements for each healthcare profession.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Addressing common inquiries concerning licensing, regulations, and disciplinary actions.

Contact Information: Enabling direct communication with the board for inquiries and clarifications.

Conclusion

The Vermont Medical Practice Board plays a critical role in ensuring the public's safety and the maintenance of high standards in healthcare. Understanding its functions and processes is crucial for any medical professional working or seeking to work in Vermont. By utilizing the resources available and navigating the procedures effectively, healthcare professionals can maintain compliance and uphold the ethical standards of the medical profession.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Where can I find the Vermont Medical Practice Board's contact information? The contact information is readily available on their official website. Look for a "Contact Us" section, usually found in the footer or a dedicated page.
2. How long does the Vermont medical licensing process typically take? The processing time varies depending on the completeness of the application and the volume of applications received. Check the VMPB website for estimated processing times.
3. What types of complaints are investigated by the VMPB? The VMPB investigates complaints related to professional misconduct, incompetence, negligence, and violations of the state's medical practice act.
4. Can I appeal a decision made by the Vermont Medical Practice Board? Yes, there are established procedures for appealing decisions made by the VMPB. These procedures are usually outlined on the board's website or within the relevant legal documents.
5. What are the continuing medical education (CME) requirements in Vermont? The CME requirements vary depending on the specific medical profession. Consult the VMPB website for detailed requirements for your specific license.

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In fact, in the worst cases, your life may even depend on it. Number one bestselling authors and doctors Michael Roizen and Mehmet Oz have written this indispensable handbook to help everyone to get the best health care possible—by making everyone into their own medical detective. Witty, playful, at times offbeat, but always authoritative, *You: The Smart Patient* shows you how to become your own medical sleuth, tracing your medical family tree and wending your way through the pitfalls of any health care situation. Written in conjunction with the health care community's leading oversight group, The Joint Commission, the book shows readers in clear, easy steps how to take control of their own health care and deal with all matters that may come up when facing a medical case: from choosing the right doctor, hospital, and insurance company to navigating prescription drugs, specialists, treatment options, alternative medicine, pain management, or any problem that might arise. Accessible, humorous, and filled with information that you need, *You: The Smart Patient* is a book for every patient and all those dealing with a loved one's medical issues.

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“This is a book of courtroom war stories, drawn from my forty years of experience as an obscure lawyer for the underdog and the downtrodden.” So begins *Renegade for Justice*, a memoir of a public interest lawyer driven by the cause of justice. While the stories Stephen Saltonstall tells are entertaining, they are also instructive, providing, as he says, “an insider look at the American justice system, which is rigged against the poor and people of color and tolerates police perjury.” *Renegade for Justice* begins by telling the story of how and why a privileged kid from Cambridge, Massachusetts, broke from family tradition and devoted his professional life to defending the defenseless in a justice system that is crippled by systemic injustice. Activist lawyer Stephen Saltonstall brings readers into the world of criminal defense by recounting narratives of his cases, including a successful attack on a Massachusetts death penalty statute, appeals of two notorious homicide cases (a serial murderer and a cop-killer), an effort to save the life of a little boy whose parents refused to give him the medical treatment he needed for acute lymphocytic leukemia, free speech cases for students and an environmentalist carpenter, litigation to save critical black bear and neotropical migratory songbird habitat from US Forest Service clear-cutting, and more. In a system biased against the public interest and the underprivileged, Saltonstall gives people a model for practicing values-based law. Channeling the spirit of radicals like William Kunstler, Saltonstall writes not only for activists who want to better understand our society, but also for those thinking about becoming a lawyer. As he writes in the preface, “I hope my stories will challenge those of you—you know who you are, you who dream of soft landings in the glittering halls of boring, soul-free law firms doing the bidding of the uber-rich and powerful—to visualize the alternative, a career that’s built on cases and causes that further the public interest, human rights, and care of the natural world.”

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