



LEGAL ALERT

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ARIZONA SUPREME COURT RULING ON LIEN SETTLEMENT OF AHCCCS ACCOUNTS

In a unanimous decision, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled in favor of Gammage & Burnham's hospital clients in upholding their legal right to make lien settlements on AHCCCS accounts. A lower court had held that previous settlements could be challenged on the basis that the original claim was precluded by federal law, a position that threatened to undermine the ability of all lawyers to reach finality in commercial cases. Arguing the case for G&B's clients, Cameron Artigue argued that commercial realities require courts to respect full and final settlements once they are made.

The Arizona Supreme Court held that settlements reached by G&B's hospital clients were final and binding. This avoided the substantial exposure that would have been created if a class action could re-open years of prior lien settlements. The Abbott case promises to be the leading Arizona precedent on the finality of settlement agreements. To read the opinion in its entirety, click [here](#).