tangled sutures
a tale of triumph and loss in a professional liability lawsuit

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About the Author

ELDO E. FREZZA, MD, MBA, FACS, was born and raised in Venice, Italy. He attended medical school at the University of Padua, then moved to the United States to complete his residency. He later also obtained a master’s degree in business administration. Dr. Frezza, a surgeon, is a Renaissance man whose background and interests go across medical specialties into ethics, business, sociology, and philosophy.

Dr. Frezza is the author several books, including textbooks on ethics, business, and laparoscopic surgery, and a cookbook on healthy Italian cooking. He also has published numerous articles and book chapters on clinical practice, research, economics, and ethics. Currently, he is working on a book on sociology and has stepped into the realm of writing fiction. He also is CEO and founder of Cure Your Practice, a California-based consulting firm for physician practices and hospitals.

He has been a full professor, including professor of ethics, at several institutions, among them Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, and the University of Pittsburgh. He is a regular speaker on ethics, sociology, and medicine, and a medical journal reviewer.

Dr. Frezza is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a member of the Texas Medical Association, American Medical Association, and American Association for Physician Leadership.
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Course Objectives

Upon completion of this enduring material, readers should be able to:

◆ Summarize the case of Montaño v. Frezza;
◆ Explain the impact of the New Mexico Supreme Court decision on Texas physicians;
◆ Apply safeguards to mitigate the risk of treating out-of-state patients;
◆ Outline Texas House Bill 4 tort reform and Proposition 12;
◆ Identify litigation stress syndrome, symptoms, and strategies for coping; and
◆ Describe the personal and professional impact of being on the receiving end of a professional liability lawsuit.

Audience

This course is appropriate for physicians in all specialties.

CME Instructions

To claim CME for this publication:
1. Read the course in its entirety.
2. Sign in to the TMA Education Center.
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To all who are fighting to protect their own rights in health care.

A special thanks to Edoardo and Gianmarco, who gave me strength when strength was not there.

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