Karen Harris
Senior vice president and general counsel, Illinois Health & Hospital Association

Karen Harris’ department provides legal guidance for all IHA entities, covering corporate governance, insurance coverage, contracts, intellectual property, HIPAA privacy and security, antitrust, employment law, and nonprofit and tax-exemption issues. She was at the center of Illinois’ response to COVID-19, coordinating the state’s 200 hospitals with local, state and federal agencies, helping draft state executive orders, filing amicus briefs and requesting regulatory waivers to enable hospitals to respond to the pandemic. She helped hospitals obtain PPE and testing supplies and also worked to establish drive-thru testing facilities and vaccination sites. She was appointed co-lead of IHA’s health disparities activities in June 2020, guiding a group of 20 hospital CEOs in addressing health disparities and socioeconomic factors that adversely affect Black and Latino communities.