Sheila D. Walcoff, J.D. is a partner in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP based in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. She is a member of the Health Law Department and the firm's Life Sciences Government Strategies Practice Group. Sheila has significant federal health policy, communications, legislative/regulatory, and management experience. She served as Counselor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) As Counselor, Sheila advised the HHS Secretary, the White House, and other government agencies on all science and public health policy, management, communications and budget matters, including personalized medicine, follow-on biologics, amendments to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, and food safety. She served the Administration as the principal policy liaison managing the four public health and science operating divisions of HHS: the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), CDC, and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). She also developed and directed major HHS and Administration initiatives, including personalized health care, genomics and information technology, World Trade Center responder health care, and HIV/AIDS initiatives. Prior to her appointment to Counselor, she served as Associate Commissioner for External Relations at FDA, where she provided policy and communications counsel to the FDA Commissioner and other senior government officials; managed the Offices of External Relations and Public Affairs; directed the agency's interactions with its stakeholders; and managed the Agency's response to a number of critical, high profile product safety issues. She earned her J.D. in 1993 from the Georgetown University Law Center and is affiliated with The Federalist Society for Law & Policy, the American Health Lawvers Association, the American Bar Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Law Association.