HEARTACHES Interview

Confidential Information for Attorney Heath [Prior to meeting with Dr. Wilson]

You are a partner at the mid-sized law firm of Finn, Tucker & Wesley in downtown Cincinnati, specializing in health law. You were proud to bring in Farmington Hospital as a client. You know the new CEO interviewed several law firms to provide litigation services for the hospital.

In the past two years, you have only handled three or four cases for the hospital, and you were brought in on one potential claim involving a possible allegation of an anesthesia overdose. No suit has been filed, but you were alerted to the claim after the hospital's patient representative heard the patient's son's irate accusations. You interviewed the anesthesiologist, Dr. Wilson, who was able to demonstrate that the dosage was within the recommended limits, and he pointed you to evidence in the medical file that the patient had suffered from some signs of dementia prior to surgery. You understand that the likelihood of establishing brain damage would be slim and are prepared to deal with a lawsuit, if filed.

As far as you know, the only currently active Farmington Hospital case in the firm is insignificant: it involves allegations of defamation against a nurse in the psychiatric ward, brought by a former patient (and her somewhat crazy husband). It is being handled by one of the law firm's associates.

Yesterday, you received an email from Dr. Wilson, asking to discuss some issues of importance to Farmington Hospital. You assumed it related to the anesthesiology claim and agreed to meet.