

## **Wardell Sanders, Esq.**

As President of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans, Ward leads the state trade association that represents all nine of the major health plans in New Jersey, including five Medicaid health plans. He became President in October of 2006, after serving as Vice President for seven months.

Prior to coming to the NJAHP in February of 2006, Ward served for 15 years in State government positions. Most recently, Ward was the Executive Director of the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage (“IHC”) Program Board and the New Jersey Small Employer Health Benefits (“SEH”) Program Board, the two State agencies charged with regulating the individual and small group health benefits markets, which covered about one million New Jersey residents.

Ward began his State service as a Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Division of Law representing the New Jersey Department of Insurance (now Department of Banking and Insurance), the SEH Board, and the IHC Board. He has been closely involved with New Jersey’s health coverage reform programs since their formation in early 1993. Ward participated in a number of inter-governmental health coverage projects and was a member of Steering Committee Member of the New Jersey State Planning Grant under a grant provided by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration. As President of the NJAHP, he was appointed by Governor Corzine to both the Mandated Health Benefits Advisory Commission and the Health Care Access Study Commission, and by Senate President Codey to the Medical Care Availability Task Force.

Ward has been a frequent speaker at national conferences sponsored by such entities as Academy Health, the Alliance for Health Reform, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Academy of State Health Policy, and the Urban Institute. In March of 2010, Ward was named by *NJBIZ*, a state business newspaper, as one of the “50 most powerful people in New Jersey health care.” He has also appeared in HealthSense’s list of the “50 most influential players in the political health care arena.”

Ward is a 1991 graduate of the Villanova University School of Law, where he was an editor of the *Villanova Environmental Law Journal* and was the student commencement speaker. Ward is also a 1984 graduate of Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he received his BA in Government.

From 1984 to 1988, prior to earning his law degree, Ward worked in Washington, D.C. for the International Center, a human rights and foreign policy research organization.

Ward lives in Lambertville, New Jersey, with his wife and two children. Ward was elected to Lambertville’s City Council and has served since January 1, 2008. He also serves on the City’s Planning Board, chairs the South Hunterdon Regional High School Work Group, the Police Merger Work Group and has served on the city’s Environmental Commission.

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