

Wardell Sanders, Esq.

President, New Jersey Association of Health Plans

Ward has been elected three times to Lambertville's City Council and has served since January 1, 2008. He also has served on a number of local bodies, including the Planning Board, the South Hunterdon Regional High School Municipal Work Group, the Cable Advisory Commission, the Police Merger Work Group, and the Environmental Commission. Ward is also involved in the Lambertville Youth Basketball Association, serving as a volunteer coach and referee since 2005.

An attorney by training, Ward serves as the President of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans, the state trade association that represents the major health plans in New Jersey, including five Medicaid health plans. He became President of NJAHP in October of 2006.

Ward is a recognized expert on health care policy, speaking to national and regional audiences and is a frequent commentator on TV. In 2014, *Inside New Jersey* and *Star Ledger* writers named Ward one of New Jersey's 100 most influential residents. He also has been named on a number of other New Jersey power lists.

Prior to coming to the NJAHP in 2006, Ward served for 15 years in State government positions. He was the Executive Director of the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage Program and the New Jersey Small Employer Health Benefits Program Boards, the two State agencies charged with regulating the individual and small group health benefits markets, which then covered about one million New Jersey residents. Ward began his State service as a Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Division of Law.

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, where he received his BA in Government. He is a member of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania bars, the New Jersey Bar Association, and is a member of the Bar Association's Insurance Benefits Committee.

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.