STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Elizabeth Ann Johnson (Betsy)

Title: Member

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Elizabeth “Betsy” Johnson is a Member of the firm in the Lexington office. She concentrates her practice in all aspects of health law, focusing on regulatory matters impacting both providers and payors. Betsy understands the important role that the government plays in health care and encourages her clients to have a collaborative working relationship with government officials. Besides practicing law, she is registered with the Kentucky Executive Branch Ethics Commission as an Executive Branch Lobbyist and enjoys connecting her clients with officials in the executive branch.

Betsy has a diverse career serving in both legal and policy roles in state government and the private sector. On behalf of governmental agencies and while in the private sector, she successfully advocated for the passage of legislation impacting health care by testifying before numerous legislative committees and meeting with members of the Kentucky legislature and members of Congress. Betsy has spent her career building and maintaining relationships with individuals on both the state and national level.

Besides serving as Kentucky’s Medicaid commissioner, Betsy spent six years as health insurance regulatory counsel for the Department of Insurance. While in this role, she successfully defended Kentucky’s any willing provider law before the United States Supreme Court. Most recently, she served as the President/Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities/Kentucky Center for Assisted Living, where she grew the association membership by 30%, created the first assisted living community chapter, and successfully advocated for increased Medicaid funding and regulatory reform. Betsy serves on the American Health Care Association Legal Committee.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Insurance Regulatory

- Health Care
- Health Care – Litigation & Investigations
- Health Care – Real Estate
- Health Care – Regulatory & Compliance
- Health Care – Business Transactions & Finance
- Health Insurance & Managed Care

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. Supreme Court

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Talk of the Town: Betsy Johnson Appointed to Lexington's Human Rights Commission
  by editor, *Attorney At Law Magazine*, September 4, 2024
- Betsy Johnson Elected to Kentucky Nonprofit Network Board
  by editor, *Attorney At Law Magazine*, February 16, 2024
- Could Changes Be Coming to Kentucky’s Certificate of Need Program?
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, January 3, 2024
- Elizabeth Ann Johnson returns to Stites & Harbison in Lexington
  by staff writer, *The Lane Report*, December 11, 2023
- The Never-Ending Debate Over Health Care Narrow Networks
  Law360.com, March 12, 2014
- Health Care Reform and the Affordable Care Act: Preparing Small Businesses for Implementations Yet to Come
  15th Annual Big Sandy Women's Business Symposium, Prestonburg, Ky., February 25, 2014
- Navigating the Affordable Health Care Act: Making it work for your small business
  Business Lexington luncheon, panel member, February 4, 2014
- Affordable Care Act compliance: Enforcement provisions and audit preparation

Affordable Care Act Conference, Kentucky Society of Certified Public Accountants, Louisville, Ky., November 8, 2013

- The Affordable Care Act, The Changing Landscape in 2014
  8th Annual ABA National GPSolo & Small Firm Conference, Lexington, KY, Oct. 3-4, 2013
- Affordable Care Act: Changing Landscape for Employers and Employees
  sponsored by Epic Insurance Solutions and Advanced Payroll Systems, Louisville, Ky., July 18, 2013
- Wild World of the Affordable Care Act
  Renasant Bank and Stites & Harbison complimentary seminar, Nashville, Tenn., June 27, 2013
- Efficiency is Healthy for Accountable Care Organizations
  quoted in article, *The Lane Report*, June 8, 2013
- The New World of Medicare and Medicaid - The Affordable Care Act and Beyond
  Kentucky CPA Healthcare Conference, Louisville, Ky., May 16, 2013
- Employer Impacts and Strategic Planning
  Old National Insurance, Health Care Reform Seminar, Louisville, Ky., May 15, 2013
- Wild World of the Affordable Care Act
  Fayette County Bar Association Healthcare Section, Lexington, Ky., May 14, 2013
- Are you ready for the 2014 large employer health insurance “option”
  Stites & Harbison Client Alert, March 28, 2013
- Health Care Reform - What Now?
  Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Thirsty Thursday networking event, Louisville, Ky., September 27, 2012
- Risk, Employment, and Compliance Issues for Healthcare Providers
  Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Thirsty Thursday networking event, Lexington, Ky., July 12, 2012
- Legal Update: Senate Bill 110 and Other Hot Topics
  Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons 2012 Spring Meeting, Florence, Ind., May 18, 2012
- The False Claims Act: What Every Nursing Home Should Know
  Timely Topics in Health Care, Louisville Bar Association & Health Law Section, Louisville, Ky., December 14, 2011
- What Every Nursing Facility Should Know About the False Claims Act
  Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities Annual Meeting, Louisville, Ky., November 15, 2011
- Make Way for Medicaid Managed Care: What to expect as Kentucky departs from traditional fee-for-service reimbursement in favor of managed care for Medicaid recipients across the Commonwealth
  Louisville Bar Association's *Bar Briefs*, November 2011 *,with Sarah Cronan Spurlock*
- PPACA and the Sunshine Act: How it Relates to Clinical Research
  Clinical Research Center Spring Symposium: Health Care Reform, Billing, Compliance and Ethics: Challenges for the Research Professional, Lexington, Ky., April 22, 2011
- Are you prepared for the upcoming implementation of ICD-10?
  Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Client Alert, January 18, 2011

- Health Care Reform Implementation
  Panelist, American Cancer Society Mid-South Board Meeting, July 24, 2010
- Kentucky Justice Association Conference on Medicaid and Third Party Liability
  June 16, 2010
- Kentucky Justice Association Conference on Medicaid and Third Party Liability
  June 4, 2010
- Health Care Reform Conference
  Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, June 3, 2010
- Health Care Reform Conference
  Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, May 21, 2010

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association,
  - Health Law Section
- Kentucky Bar Association
- American Health Law Association, Post-Acute Long Term Services Practice Group, Vice Chair (2026-29)
- American Health Care Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission (Sept. 2024 - Jan. 2028)
- Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning, Board of Directors (Dec. 2025-Dec. 2029)
- Kentucky Nonprofit Network, Board of Directors (2024-present)

EDUCATION

- Temple University School of Law J.D., 1994
- University of Kentucky B.A., Political Science

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Prior to joining Stites & Harbison, Betsy was the President/Executive Director of the Kentucky Association

of Health Care Facilities/Kentucky Center for Assisted Living (KAHCF/KAM); Commissioner for Department for Medicaid Services, Commonwealth of Kentucky (January 2008 – September 2010); Deputy Commissioner for the Department for Employee Insurance, Commonwealth of Kentucky (September 2006 – January 2008); Legislative Committee Analyst for the House State Government Committee and Senate State and Local Government Committee-Legislative Research Commission (June 2005 – September 2006); Counsel to the Commonwealth's Department of Insurance (July 1999 – June 2005); Administrative Law Judge for the Cabinet for Health Services, Administrative Hearings Branch (August 1996 – July 1999); and staff attorney for the Commonwealth of Kentucky Court of Appeals (September 1994 – August 1996). Betsy served as Counsel of Record in the case of *Kentucky Association of Health Plans v. Miller*, 538 U.S. 329 (2003), successfully defending Kentucky's state Any Willing Provider statute against a federal ERISA preemption challenge. Outside of practicing law, Betsy enjoys spending time with her family and friends. In her spare time, she likes to travel, exercise and read.

ACCOLADES

- *Best Lawyers In America*®, Health Care Law and Litigation - Health Care (2027)