

Warde elected to AMA Litigation Center

RIMS' Executive Director Newell Warde is a newly elected member of the Executive Committee of the AMA Litigation Center.

The Center provides legal assistance and expertise to physicians all over the country. Since its inception in 1995, the AMA Litigation Center has participated in more than 160 cases, many of which have set important legal precedents and had broad implications for patients and doctors.

Indeed, when New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo announced his dramatic initiatives against UnitedHealthcare earlier this year, he was following a trail that was blazed fully eight years ago by the AMA Litigation Center.

The Center is a joint undertaking of state medical societies and the AMA. It was founded as a mechanism to level the playing field for physicians, who are often at a material disadvantage in legal battles that pit them against large entities like insurance companies and hospitals. All fifty states and the District of Columbia participate in supporting the Center.

The Litigation Center's docket of cases spans the breadth of the medical-legal landscape. It has most often included issues of physician payment, medical staff privileges, medical liability, peer review, and scope-of-practice, among many other topics. Forums range from administrative proceedings to cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. At any given time, the Litigation Center has approximately 25 active cases.

The ten-member Executive Committee of the Litigation Center is composed of four state executive directors, four state general counsels, a member of the AMA Board of Trustees and an attorney employed by the AMA who serves as Director of the Center. The eight state representatives are elected by the chief executive officers of the fifty state medical societies and the District of Columbia; they serve staggered, two-year terms and may be reelected for up to three consecutive terms.