



Paul F. Richard

Paul Richard is a retired health care lawyer and executive. In 2018, Paul retired from his role as the executive vice president of Sanford Health in Fargo, North Dakota. He was employed or affiliated with the organization for over 40 years.

Raised on a farm in rural Cass County, North Dakota with 10 brothers and sisters, Paul began his career at St. Luke's Hospital, now Sanford Medical Center Fargo, in 1971 as a medical records clerk. After completing degrees in nursing and business economics at North Dakota State University, he transitioned to a new role as a quality review nurse. He received his juris doctor degree from the University of North Dakota in 1979, and joined Serkland Law Firm in Fargo where he practiced law for 20 years. Paul was appointed General Counsel of MeritCare Health System (now Sanford Health) in 1998, and he added further executive duties in 2007.

When MeritCare Health System merged with Sanford Health of Sioux Falls, SD, in 2009, Paul was named Chief Legal Officer, a position he held until 2013 when he was named executive vice president of Sanford Health Fargo. As executive vice president, Paul was the Fargo market leader and was accountable for the entire Fargo market which encompasses the Sanford Fargo Medical Center and Sanford Clinic locations in the Fargo-Moorhead metro area. Sanford Medical Center includes three medical center campuses located in Fargo.

Paul is licensed as an attorney in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. He is a member of the State Bar Associations of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota and the American Health Lawyers Association.

Throughout his career, Paul served on numerous boards, including the North Dakota Hospital Association, the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board, Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, Tri-College University, Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, Bethany Homes, State Bar Association of North Dakota (past president), State Bar Association of North Dakota Foundation, and the North Dakota Board of Law Examiners.

He and his wife, Mary Jo, live in Fargo and have three adult children.