



ERIC HARGAN

DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NationalJournal

Life in Brief

Born: June 3, 1968

Hometown: Mounds, Illinois

Education:

- JD, Columbia University, 1993, Certificate in International Law
- BA, Harvard University, 1990

Family:

- Married to Emily Hargan, who has worked in fundraising and development for several conservative advocacy organizations, currently the American Conservative Union and CPAC
- Two sons

Work History:

- Partner, Winston & Strawn, 1997-2003
- Acting Deputy Secretary, Deputy General Counsel, HHS, 2003-07
- Partner, McDermott Will & Emery, 2008-10
- Shareholder, Health & FDA Business Practice, Greenberg Traurig, 2010-17
- Co-Chair, HHS Transition Team, Governor Bruce Rauner (R-IL), 2014
- Member, Trump Administration HHS Transition Team, 2017
- Professor, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, unknown dates
- President, The Center for Biologic Policy Evaluation, unknown dates

Quick Summary

Veteran conservative health care lawyer with rural Midwest background who brings corporate law and lobbying savvy to his second stint at HHS

- One of many George W. Bush HHS staffers who has returned to the Trump Administration
- Proud Illinois native who frequently cites his parents' public and community service and rural upbringing as motivations
- Adheres to the Trump Administration's policy priorities and generally embraces traditional conservative efforts to utilize private sector innovation
- While experienced across HHS and CMS priorities, private sector work with diagnostics and pharmaceutical organizations reflects interest in FDA regulatory policy

Approach and Motivations

Careful to align with Administration priorities

- Keeps low public profile when not speaking on behalf of the Trump Administration
- Generally sticks to discussing Administration priorities, initiatives, and policy proposals

Cites personal belief in public service as major motivator for rejoining HHS

- Cites father's public service and mother's career at a rural hospital as motivation for working in government and health care
- Spoke at his confirmation hearing about his deep belief in the patriotism and dedication of HHS staff, based on his tenure in the George W. Bush Administration

Policy Positions and Areas of Focus

Career in health law reflects interest in FDA regulatory policy and corporate law, but in current role largely hews to the Administration's agenda

Regulatory Burden Reduction – *Favors carefully considered, data-driven, long-term approach*

- Highlights the Administration's efforts to reduce regulatory burden
- Has spoken frequently about efforts to reform the Stark Law and anti-kickback statutes to facilitate value-based drug pricing
- Showcases' HHS and CMS efforts to reduce burden through the Meaningful Measures Initiative (provider burden)

Private Sector Innovation – *Brings interest in private sector from law firm days to HHS reforms*

- Leads the Deputy Secretary's Innovation and Investment Summit, which was initially designed to leverage private sector innovation and expertise to facilitate the transition to value-based care
- Corporate legal background reflects long-running interest in health care industry dynamics

Health Law – *Has worked on health industry regulation from both the public and private sectors*

- Taught health care regulation and administrative law at Loyola
- Specialized in corporate law at Winston & Strawn, including mergers and acquisitions, securities, and venture capital

Opioids – *Frequently speaks about the Trump Administration's opioid priorities*

- Called the opioid epidemic "the crisis of our time" in 2017
- Has supported a wide array of solutions, from increased recovery services to coordinating with law enforcement to increasing access to telehealth

Core Communities

Deeply steeped in conservative legal and health care circles, both in IL and at the federal level

Pharmaceutical and Diagnostics Industry – *Consulting relationships reflect long-running interest in regulation of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics*

- Lobbied for Genomic Health, Inc. on FDA regulation of lab tests
- President of The Center for Biologic Policy Evaluation, which evaluates international biosimilar standards based on WHO standards
- Worked with Jim O'Neill, Managing Director of VC firm Mithril Capital Management

IL Health Care Politicos – *Held advisory roles on multiple state health care committees, working groups*

- Served on Gov. Bruce Rauner's HHS transition team
- Member of the IL State Health Improvement Planning Council and IL State Innovation Model Workgroup

Conservative Health Care Admin Staffers – *Part of a resurgence at HHS of former staffers from the George W. Bush Administration*

- Former Secretary Mike Leavitt, now CEO at Leavitt Partners
- Former Secretary Tommy Thompson, now at BPC
- Current HHS leaders: Paula Stannard, Senior Advisor; Demetrious Kouzoukas, Principal Deputy Administrator, Medicare

Conservative Advocates – *Volunteered and advised several conservative advocacy organizations, both nationally and locally*

- Was Treasurer of the Coalition to Protect Patient Rights, which opposed the passage of the ACA
- Was a Policy Fellow at the American Conservative Union Foundation

Criticisms and Controversies

Received scrutiny as one of HHS' public representatives regarding the Trump Administration's family separation policy

- Held meetings about HHS' role in the Trump Administration's unaccompanied children program
- Received criticisms for his potential role in family separations
- Issued a statement on behalf of HHS objecting to the characterization that children had been "lost"

Financial Disclosures and Donors

Donor to former HHS colleagues, GOP presidential campaigns, and personal representatives

- \$1k to Ben Sasse (R-NE), 2014 (worked together at Bush 43 HHS)
- \$1k to Ted Cruz (R-TX), 2013
- \$500 to Tommy Thompson's WI Senate campaign, 2012 (worked together at Bush 43 HHS)
- \$15k to Romney campaign and associated PAC, 2012
- \$5k to RNC, 2012
- \$2.5k to Rick Perry PAC, 2011
- \$250 to Sean Duffy (R-WI7), 2012
- \$1k to Mark Kirk (R-IL), 2009 (Hargan's senator at the time)
- \$250 to Bob Dold (R-IL10), 2011 (likely Hargan's representative at the time)

Hobbies

Involved in local community

- Wife Emily is a Chicago sports fan (Cubs, Blackhawks) and UVA basketball fan
- Volunteered at St. Isaac's (local catholic church) in IL

Info From Formative Years

Member of Columbia Law Review

- Senior Editor, Columbia Law Review

Drawn to intellectual circles at an early age

- As a high schooler, was the youngest member of the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry, a high IQ society

Family Background

Maintains midwestern roots alongside ties to conservative Washington advocacy strongholds

- Raised in Mounds, IL (population 800)
- Born in Cape Girardeau, MO
- Before moving back to DC to join the Trump Administration, lived in the Chicago suburbs
- Married to Emily Hargan, Director of Development at The American Conservative Union. Emily has worked in fundraising and development for multiple conservative advocacy organizations, including George Mason University School of Law, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Center for Individual Rights, and Family Research Council
- Children: Two boys

Cites parents as major forces in his life

- Father: worked as a union shop steward and technician at a DOE plant that was the only uranium enrichment facility in the country; served in the Air Force during the Korean War
- Mother: worked as an x-ray technician at a rural hospital for 58 years