



# VIEW*S* & VISIONS

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## Prescription for Better Health Care

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## FROM OUR MANAGING PARTNER

Tom Heywood is Managing Partner of Bowles Rice. He has significant experience in health care, corporate, finance and commercial law, and leads the firm's Government Relations Team.

Tom is the recipient of the YMCA's 2017 Spirit of the Valley Award. In 2016, he was named to the inaugural class of "Sharp Shooters" by *West Virginia Executive* magazine. *The State Journal* named him one of the state's "Ten Most Influential Business Leaders" in 2012.

He served as Chief of Staff to the Honorable Gaston Caperton, former Governor of the State of West Virginia, from 1990 to 1993, and was chairman of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's election campaigns in 2011 and 2012. In 2016-2017, he was a member of the Jim Justice Inaugural Committee.

Tom serves on numerous charitable and nonprofit boards, including the West Virginia University Board of Governors, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the West Virginia Roundtable and the Discover the Real West Virginia Foundation. He also participates actively in various business and trade associations.

In recognition of his many contributions to the legal profession and community, he was named a Fellow of the American Bar Association. He also is a past recipient of *The State Journal's* "Who's Who in West Virginia Business" award.

Amidst the continuing national debate over health care, our health care system's progress is steady and unmistakable. In this edition of *Views & Visions*, we highlight the many exciting health care advances and accomplishments in our region over the past many years, and take a look at what is to come.

I have had the privilege of participating actively in the formation and implementation of health care policy in West Virginia during the past three decades – as a lawyer serving hospitals, health care providers, health care insurers and others; through government service; and in my work with various trade associations and non-profit organizations. As a result, I have become personally acquainted with the many dedicated, talented and hard-working health care professionals featured in this edition of *Views & Visions*. Without exception, they are remarkable individuals and leaders, and their leadership is but one reason I am confident that the future of health care in our region and nation is bright indeed.

A striking feature of our health care system is its complexity. Even for those of us who spend hundreds of hours a year or more working with and in our health care system, it is difficult to keep up with all the changes, acronyms, systems, initiatives and developments. The articles that follow offer many insights into how health care organizations, insurers and providers are using technology and other tools to render our health care system more accessible, understandable and effective.

Health care seems to touch every aspect of our lives, and indeed it does. As West

Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Bill Crouch and several other authors note in their articles, our understanding of the ingredients of health and health care have long since moved beyond making a regular visit to the doctor's office to a much deeper appreciation of the fact that our individual and collective health and wellness are affected by our communities, our social relationships, our sense of purpose and much more. We can anticipate many social and individual benefits in the years to come from this enhanced understanding of what it means to be healthy.

Another theme that emerges in the articles that follow is collaboration. Today, no organization or individual believes that it, he or she can go it alone and improve the cost, quality and accessibility of our health care system. Rather, everyone agrees that collaboration among providers, payors, patients and policymakers is essential to our individual and collective success, and will help us achieve our "triple aim" of better care, improved health, and lower cost.

The health care challenges we face are legion. Despite this, we have every reason for optimism about our ability to improve individual and collective health and well-being in the years to come. With dedicated and talented health care leaders like those whose articles follow, we are sure to succeed.

Here's to your health, and happy reading! W