



George B. Sanders Jr. (Ben)

Title: Of Counsel

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Ben Sanders is Of Counsel to the firm where he is a member of the Business & Corporate Services Group. His practice focuses on management buyouts using ESOPs and executive compensation for public and privately held businesses which includes clients in the healthcare and long-term care industry. He has extensive experience in designing and implementing ESOP transactions, executive compensation programs and mergers and acquisitions. Ben spends his time in both the Louisville and Nashville offices of Stites & Harbison.

Mr. Sanders has been designing and implementing ESOP transactions and management buyouts since 1984. His clients include companies in industries as diverse as aerospace, banking, petroleum distribution, lumber brokerage, suppliers to NASA and the military, capital equipment, homebuilding, chemical distribution, commercial lighting, engineering, media and entertainment, material handling, pharmaceuticals, and privatized correctional facilities. Mr. Sanders has represented business owners, management buyout groups, and ESOP trustees, and has often served as "counsel to the deal," working with other counsel to design transaction structures that accomplish the needs of disparate parties. In addition, Mr. Sanders has successfully defended plan fiduciaries in significant fiduciary liability cases brought by the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Sanders serves as an outside director on the boards of several ESOP owned companies in New England and the Southeast.

Mr. Sanders is experienced in tax, accounting and disclosure issues surrounding executive equity and deferred compensation in public companies, and knowledgeable regarding corporate compensation theory and practice.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Biotechnology/Life Sciences
- Business Services
- Corporate General Services
- Employee Benefits
- Taxation

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- Tennessee

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- The Universal Life Time Bomb Stites & Harbison Client Alert
- Improving the Governance of ESOP Companies
co-presenter, Ohio/Kentucky Chapter of the ESOP Association's 22nd Annual Fall ESOP Conference, Louisville, Ky., August 30, 2011

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- ESOP Association
- Massachusetts Software Counsel
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Louisville Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Norton Healthcare Foundation, Past Chair
- Home of the Innocents, Former Director
- Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass., Honorary Trustee

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University Law School J.D. 1972

Cornell University B.A., Philosophy 1969

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Mr. Sanders has practiced extensively in New England where he was Managing Partner of Bowditch & Dewey, LLP.

Mr. Sanders stays active in various non-profit organizations. He is the past chair of Norton Healthcare Foundation. He is a former director of Home of the Innocents, and an honorary trustee of Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass.

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*[®] AV-Preeminent[®] Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*[®], for Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law (1995-2024)