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New Jersey Long Term Care Ombudsman Honored

James W. McCracken recognized for providing Ethics training to long-term care facilities

James W. McCracken, New Jersey's Long Term Care Ombudsman, was honored on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 as Educator of the Year by the NJ Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Administrators (NJACHA) at their Annual Meeting at the Venetian Care and Rehabilitation Center in South Amboy.

The award was given to McCracken in honor of his work to educate chapter members about ways to address sensitive medical and ethical dilemmas that occur in long-term care settings. The award was presented by Bob Reyes, NJACHCA Chapter President, Helaine Ledany, Immediate Past President, and Jim Zauner the NJACHCA Awards Chair.

"Jim was selected by our Awards Committee because he has always committed to provide our members ethics presentations without fail. He never says no and the members really enjoyed his presence and presentations over the years." stated Reyes.

"The OOIE and our Regional Ethics Committees are a trusted resource for long-term care residents, their families, medical professionals and facility staff when they are presented with difficult ethical decisions, particularly at the end of life," said McCracken, who was appointed head of the Office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly (OOIE) by Governor Chris Christie in December 2010. "I am honored to receive this award and gratified by the high level of interest in this topic by this esteemed group of administrators."

The OOIE advocates for residents of long-term care facilities, conducts investigations into incidents of abuse or exploitation and also oversees 10 Regional Ethics Committees that act as a resource to long-term care residents, families and facility staff throughout the state.

McCracken lives in Belmar, Monmouth County.

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