

## Steven B. Larsen

*Insurance Commissioner  
State of Maryland  
Class of 1977*



Currently living in Kensington, Maryland, Steven Larsen remembers Needham High School in the 70s as having the usual cliques—the athletes, band members, “motor heads,” over-achievers,” “ druggies.” The pressures, he recalls, were also much the same as pressures that students experience today—pressure to drink or do drugs, pressure to gain acceptance to the best college, pressure to be “In” or “Accepted.” As a high school student, Steven claims that he tended to rest on his natural abilities rather than work hard to develop these abilities. His experiences at Needham High School, however, he describes as positive ones.

In college, Steven learned the value of hard work. As a result, his scholastic career bloomed. In 1981, he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Business Administration) from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. In 1984, he received a Master of Arts Degree (Politics and Public Policy) from the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. At Rutgers, he was an Eagleton Fellow. There he completed a distinguished academic career, earning his J.D. with honors in 1985. At Rutgers- Camden School of Law, he served as Associate Editor of the Rutgers Law Journal and received the Am Jur Award for Professional Responsibility. He also published an article in the *Rutgers Law Journal* (1984), “Recovery in New Jersey under Workers’ Compensation for Mental Disabilities Caused by Job Stress.”

Since 1985, Steven has enjoyed a distinguished career. Beginning as a law clerk for the Honorable Morton I. Greenberg in the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, he prepared bench memorandum and drafted opinions for criminal and civil matters for a three judge panel. For the next two years, he served as Associate Attorney for Pitney, Hardin, Kipp and Szuch in Morristown, New Jersey. During this time, he was responsible for litigation matters, primarily in the areas of commercial litigation and insurance defense. A year later, he served as Associate Attorney for Pillero, Tobin and Mazza in Washington, DC. Since 1989, he has held a number of responsible positions, including

Committee Counsel to the Maryland Department of Legislative Reference; Assistant Legislative Officer for Governor William Donald Schaefer; Counsel and Senior Counsel for USF&G Corporation of Baltimore, Maryland; Chief Legislative Officer and Chief Deputy Legislative Officer for Governor Parris N. Glendening. As Chief Legislative Officer and Chief Deputy Legislative Officer, Steven was required to coordinate, draft and lobby the Governor’s legislative initiatives before the Maryland General Assembly and to supervise all state agency legislation and positions on privately sponsored legislation. Since June of 1997, he has served as Insurance Commissioner for the state of Maryland, presiding over an agency of 250 employees with an annual budget of \$16 million. This agency regulates the activities of insurers and insurance agents operating in Maryland.

Steven is one of the youngest insurance commissioners ever appointed in Maryland. To this position, he has brought discipline, energy, commitment, and vision. Since his appointment as Commissioner, he has worked to revitalize a bureaucracy in order to serve the consumers in the state efficiently and productively. His distinguished career is proof that he has indeed learned the value of hard work.