



A Champion for Pharmacy

By Michael F. Conlan

The former proprietor of this column, John Rector, has retired from working full time for NCPA after more than 28 years. Column-writing was just one of the many tasks John admirably performed over the course of his distinguished career at NCPA both as senior vice president for government affairs and general counsel. Last October at NCPA's 110th Annual Convention, he was honored with a special presentation marking his service.

Before joining the association, John was as a trial attorney for the Department of Justice. A former federal prosecutor, he spent six years as deputy chief counsel, and then chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also served as counsel to Indiana Senator Birch Bayh, and as his legislative assistant for health.



NCPA President 2007-08 Steve Giroux(L) and John Rector.

John was confirmed by the Senate as administrator of the nation's juvenile justice agency for Attorney General Griffin Bell in the Carter Administration. Later he served as a special counsel to the attorney general.

He is a graduate of the University

of California at Berkeley and the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. He and his wife Carmen have three children: Christian, Ciara, and Zachary.

Since 1980, John has been at the forefront of a host of legislative, regulatory, and legal battles to preserve and protect the interests of the nation's independent community pharmacies and their patients...discriminatory pricing, equal access, High Noon, manufacturer rebates for Medicaid, PBMs, imports, Medicare catastrophic, pharmacist

counseling, Clinton's health care reform, a four-year moratorium on Medicaid reimbursement cuts...the list goes on. It also includes:

- The Prescription Drug Marketing Act, which helped stop the diversion of prescription drugs to illegal markets.
- Pharmacy crime legislation, which made pharmacy robberies federal felony, and which was reaffirmed last year with the NCPA "Protect Your Pharmacy Now!" initiative.
- Legislation at both the state and federal level to regulate physician dispensing.
- The inclusion of pharmacists on over-the-counter product labels.

On the litigation front, there were lawsuits on predatory pricing, PBMs, Medicare discount cards (where NCPA successfully blocked the Bush Administration twice), the Medicaid AMP rule (where NCPA also successfully blocked the Bush Administration and continues to do so), and the First DataBank lawsuit where NCPA's intervention has been saving each independent community pharmacy \$291 daily since October 2006.

The full roll call of his achievements and battles for independent community pharmacy is extraordinary. Suffice it to say that in 2003 NCPA honored John for his dedication and service with the John W. Dargavel Medal. Former NCPA Executive Vice President Charles West said then in presenting the award:

"He is without peer in the national pharmacy legal, political, and legislative arena, and we are truly fortunate that he has devoted so many years to us in his illustrious career." Amen. **ap**

Michael F. Conlan is editor of *America's Pharmacist*.