

# John Rector Named Recipient of 2003 John W. Dargavel Medal

**J**ohn M. Rector, Esq., NCPA's senior vice president, government affairs, and general counsel, was named the recipient of the 2003 John W. Dargavel Medal Monday during the Second General Session.

The Dargavel Medal is awarded each year by the NCPA Foundation to honor those whose contributions on behalf of independent pharmacy embody the spirit of leadership and accomplishment personified by John Dargavel, NCPA's (then NARD's) executive secretary from 1933 to 1961 and the namesake of the NCPA Foundation.

Rector joined NCPA in 1980 and is responsible for the association's legislative and regulatory activities and for NCPA-PAC. Over the course of his distinguished NCPA career, Rector has been instrumental in a variety of legislative, regulatory, and judicial initiatives to preserve and protect the interests of the nation's independent community pharmacies. Briefly, they include:

- The Prescription Drug Marketing Act, which helped curb illegal prescription diversion.
- Pharmacy crime legislation, which made pharmacy robberies federal offenses.
- Legislation at both the state and federal level to regulate physician dispensing.
- Drug pricing legislation and litigation.
- The inclusion of pharmacists on OTC product labels.
- Predatory pricing litigation.
- PBM litigation and regulation.

The NCPA/NACDS lawsuits opposing the current Bush Administration's prescription drug discount card plan.



**John M. Rector, Esq., (center) receives the 2003 John W. Dargavel Medal from NCPA Foundation President Charles West (right) and NCPA Executive Vice President Bruce Roberts (left).**

- Legislation and regulation to preserve fair competition between community pharmacies and mail order.
- Preserving the right of pharmacists to compound.
- NCPA's effort to give pharmacists the right to negotiate third-party contracts.
- Preserving pharmacists' access to third-party insurance plans and the right of consumers to patronize the pharmacy of their choice.

"John Rector has made an indelible mark on independent pharmacy, and we are better for it," said NCPA Executive Vice President and CEO Bruce Roberts, R.Ph. "I have seen first-hand his passion and drive to protect the interests of independents and the patients they serve. His political savvy

and knowledge of the ins-and-outs of Washington make him an invaluable asset to community pharmacy and NCPA."

"John Rector's contributions to community pharmacy are legendary," said NCPA Foundation President Charles West. "His devotion to NCPA and its members is truly remarkable. 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."

Before joining the association in 1980, Rector served as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. A former federal prosecutor, he spent six years as deputy chief counsel, and then chief counsel and staff director of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. He also served as counsel to Indiana Senator Birch Bayh, as his legislative assistant for health.

He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as administrator of the nation's juvenile justice agency for Attorney General Griffin Bell. Later he served as a special counsel the attorney general.

Rector is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and a graduate of the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. During law school, he was the recipient of a Percy E. Towne Scholarship and served on the staff of the Law Journal.

In addition to the Dargavel Medal, Rector was awarded \$1,000.

The NCPA Foundation, established in 1953, is a nonprofit organization that provides educational and research support to pharmacy faculty, students and practitioners.

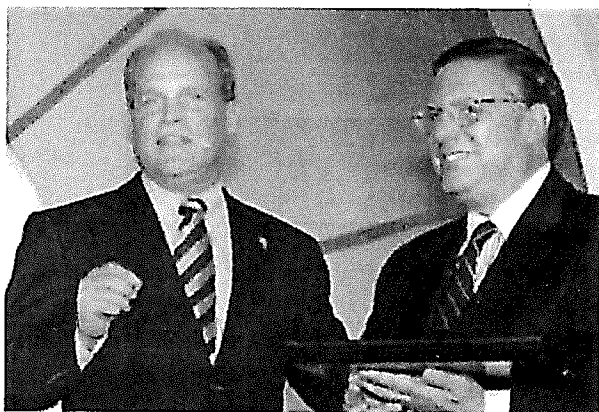


# A Champion for Pharmacy

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*.