

## From “Wartime” to Peacetime Buildup

*By James D. Edwards, DC, Chairman  
National Chiropractic Legal Action Fund*

At press time, the appeal of the federal lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is in full gear. The Court of Appeals has issued its briefing schedule: the ACA’s initial brief is due May 3 with the government having until June 2 to file its own brief. ACA will then be able to file a reply brief by June 16—oral arguments may be scheduled 45 days from that date.

Rest assured that ACA will continue this fight to the very end since it is absolutely essential that senior citizens and the disabled in Medicare managed care plans have their subluxations corrected by a doctor of chiropractic and not by an untrained, unqualified provider. This battle is defining, and ongoing fundraising is vital.

And once the HHS lawsuit is decided, what happens next?

There is no question that future injustices will be attempted. The chiropractic profession must be able to fight back immediately and forcefully. We must never let our opponents view us as weak or catch us without the funds to legally fight back. This profession must never again be ill prepared to forcefully respond when we are unfairly attacked.

To that end, the ACA Board of Governors has made the National Chiropractic Legal Action Fund (NCLAF) “a permanent, semi-autonomous, legal action fundraising entity charged with building a litigation ‘war chest’ to be used solely for legal actions and educating the chiropractic profession about the necessity of having legal funds in reserve.”

On March 3, the ACA Board of Governors ratified the new NCLAF officers. I am pleased to report that the group represents the entire profession—and not just ACA. Only two of the officers are ACA delegates; the six remaining are drawn from different organizations and have a wide range of experience. I am also pleased to inform you that these six people are the most talented and experienced group of individuals I have ever served with during my career. Their CVs feature a long list of accomplishments and honors.

The first meeting of the “new” NCLAF was held recently, and our discussions centered on the individuals (at least eight) who will be appointed to the NCLAF Advisory Board.

If you are a monthly contributor, the NCLAF officers want to thank you for standing in defense of this profession and urge you to continue your support as the fund transitions from “wartime” to peacetime build up. The NCLAF encourages you to “enlist” in protecting this profession by filling out the pledge form (on this page) and faxing it in today. Your monthly support of the NCLAF is essential because we must be prepared...not **IF** our adversaries attack us again, but **WHEN!**

Dr. Edwards can be contacted at [JamesEdwards@JamesEdwards.com](mailto:JamesEdwards@JamesEdwards.com).

## **NCLAF OFFICERS**

### **Thomas Klapp, DC – Director**

Served as President of the Congress of Chiropractic State Associations  
Served as Board Member of the International Chiropractors Association  
Served as State Assemblyman of the International Chiropractors Association  
Served as President of the Michigan Chiropractic Association  
Served as Chairman of the Michigan Chiropractic Legal Action Committee  
NCLAF Board Member (1 Year)

### **Carl S. Cleveland, III, DC – Director**

Serves as President of Cleveland Chiropractic Colleges  
Served as President of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges  
Served as President of the Council on Chiropractic Education  
Served as Trustee of the Chiropractic Centennial Foundation  
ACA Humanitarian of the Year – 2003  
NCLAF Board Member (3 years) and Narrator for the “Simple Justice” Videos

### **Donald Petersen, Jr. – Director**

Serves as the Publisher of Dynamic Chiropractic  
Served as Trustee of the Chiropractic Centennial Foundation  
Serves as Sec. of Council on Chiropractic Guidelines and Practice Parameters  
ACA Humanitarian of the Year - 1990 & 1996  
Honorary Doctor of Chiropractic Degree  
Fellow, International College of Chiropractors

### **J. Michael Flynn, DC – Director**

Served as ACA Chairman of the Board (2 Years)  
Served as ACA District Governor (6 Years)  
Served on the Louisiana Board of Chiropractic Examiners (8 Years)  
Serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the World Federation of Chiropractic  
2002 ACA Doctor of the Year  
NCLAF Board Member since 1999 inception and Chairman for 3 Years

### **Mario Spoto, DC – Director**

Served as President of the Congress of Chiropractic State Associations  
Serves as Pennsylvania ACA Delegate  
Serves as Treasurer of the ACA-PAC  
Serves on the ACA Clinical Documentation Committee  
ACA Delegate of the Year  
NCLAF Board Member (4 years) and Executive Committee (2 Years)

### **Richard Thompson, DC – Vice Chairman**

Served as President of the Ohio State Chiropractic Association (OSCA)  
Serves as OSCA Legislative Chairman  
Serves as member of the OSCA Board of Directors  
Served as ACA-PAC Treasurer (5 Years)  
Served as ACA Representative to Republican National Convention

NCLAF Board Member (4 years) and Executive Committee (2 Years)

**James D. Edwards, DC – Chairman**

Served as ACA Chairman of the Board (2 Years)

Served as ACA District Governor (7 Years) and ACA Treasurer (2 Years)

Served on the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (8 Years)

Served as Chairman and Treasurer of the ACA-PAC

2004 ACA Doctor of the Year

NCLAF Board Member since 1999 inception and Co-Chairman (2 Years)