

THAT WAS THEN AND THIS IS NOW!
By James D. Edwards, D.C., Chairman
National Chiropractic Legal Action Fund

Back in March 1999, Dr. J. Michael Flynn (a second year ACA Governor) and I (a rookie ACA Governor) were summoned to meet with the 3-member ACA Executive Committee while attending the National Chiropractic Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

The meeting began with a shocking proclamation that it was the responsibility of the individuals in the room to raise the needed 5 million dollars to legally overturn HHS's ruling that permitted MDs and PTs to provide subluxation care. By the end of the meeting (and after catching our breath), the National Chiropractic Legal Action Fund (NCLAF) had been formed along with a detailed strategy about how to accomplish the assigned mission.

And now – after 6 years of hard work – the NCLAF has raised over \$8 million dollars making it the most successful fund raising effort in the history of the chiropractic profession. Needless to say, both Dr. Flynn and I are thrilled that so many have sacrificed their time and money in an effort to protect this profession from the federal government and Trigon Blue Cross Blue Shield.

But...that was then and this is now!

There is simply no question that future injustices will be attempted. But this time, we must be able to fight back immediately and forcefully. This profession must never again be viewed as weak by our opponents. This profession must never again be caught flat-footed without the needed funds to fight back. And this profession must never again be ill prepared to forcefully respond when we are unfairly attacked.

Few doubt that the security of the United States is predicated on a strong national defense – and with absolute certainty – the same is true for the chiropractic profession.

To ensure the protection of this profession from future, inevitable attacks, the ACA Board of Governors has made the NCLAF “a permanent, semi-autonomous, legal action fundraising entity charged with the responsibility of building a litigation ‘war chest’ to be utilized solely for legal actions and educating the chiropractic profession about the necessity of having legal funds in reserve.” Subsequently, NCLAF Bylaws were adopted giving the entity organizational structure and I was ratified as the new NCLAF chairman.

If you are a monthly contributor, the NCLAF wants to sincerely thank you for standing in defense of this profession and urge you to continue your support as the NCLAF transitions from “wartime” to peacetime build up.

If you have not yet signed 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...but WHEN they attack us!

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