

2000 Public Service Awards: Judy Sherman and C. Scott Litch, JD

Presented by B. Alex White, DDS, DrPH

We're fortunate to have so many people who devote time and energy to improve the public's oral health. We simply could not achieve all that we do to support funding of education, research, and service without the help of organizations and individuals such as those we recognize today. The Public Service Award is presented to an individual for substantial contributions through action related to public health dentistry issues. The American Association of Public Health Dentistry is pleased to recognize the invaluable contributions of two individuals: Judy Sherman, senior congressional lobbyist for the American Dental Association (ADA), and Scott Litch, associate executive director for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). In honoring Judy and Scott, we also acknowledge that their work would not be possible without organizational policies that support their work.

Judy Sherman

Judy Sherman joined the American Dental Association Washington office in September 1985. Prior to joining the ADA, Judy served as associate staffer to the Health Appropriations Subcommittee on the staff of Representative Carl Pursell, a Republican Congressman from Michigan. Before going to Washington, she had been a junior high school teacher in Ann Arbor, MI, for 12 years. From 1977 to 1982, she was the assistant news director for WPAG radio in Ann Arbor. Currently, she is the Washington correspondent for the "Community Comment" show on WAAM in Ann Arbor.

As an ADA senior congressional lobbyist, Judy is responsible for covering the appropriations committees in the US House of Representatives and US Senate and the US Senate Health,

Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. She is responsible for ensuring that all federal dental programs are adequately funded and that health legislation addresses dentistry's needs to the fullest extent possible.

The work that Judy does is important for AAPHD, since so many of our members either work in federal dental programs or receive money through grants and contracts from these programs. She and her colleagues at the ADA work to secure adequate funding for research, education, and service in agencies such as the Division of Oral Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research, and the Indian Health Service, among others.

Judy is a fantastic lobbyist who has worked with many of us to maintain visibility for oral health on Capitol Hill and to ensure funding of federal dental programs. At the US Public Health Service luncheon on Monday, Chief Dental Officer Bill Maas noted that the partnerships and collaborations we form with the American Dental Association are critical to improve the public's oral health. In honoring Judy, we also express our thanks to the American Dental Association for its support and for policies that allow Judy and others in the ADA Washington office to work effectively on the public's behalf.

On behalf of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, it is my privilege to present the 2000 Public Service Award to Mrs. Judy Sherman.

C. Scott Litch

Scott Litch is currently deputy executive director and general counsel for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, a position he has held for

a little more than six months. Prior to joining AAPD, Scott held several positions at the American Association of Dental Schools (now the American Dental Education Association). In 1988 Scott joined the AADS as legislative assistant and soon became legislative counsel. Most recently he was general counsel, associate executive director, and director of the Division of Government and Institutional Relations.

Scott has published a number of articles and has given numerous presentations based on his work. He has long been an advocate for federal support of undergraduate and graduate dental education, including dental public health.

I asked Scott about his most important contributions toward improving the public's oral health. He noted two areas: building coalitions of individuals and organizations who have similar interests, and funding for education and training programs for oral health professionals. As dental public health professionals, we all recognize the importance of these areas and acknowledge the role that Scott and his colleagues have played.

In honoring Scott, we also express our thanks to the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Access to care, education, and training are natural areas for us to work collaboratively with the ADEA and the AAPD, and we thank those organizations for their support and for allowing Scott to work on issues that impact on AAPHD and the work that we do. On behalf of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, it is my privilege to present the 2000 Public Service Award to Mr. Scott Litch.