

Patrick H. DeLeon, Ph.D., J.D., M.P.H.

Ph.D. Clinical Psychology, Purdue University, 1969

M.P.H. University of Hawaii, 1973

J.D. The Columbus School of Law, Catholic University, 1980

Chief of Staff, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye (D- HI)

APA President, 2000

Dr. DeLeon is a passionate and relentless advocate for psychology's responsibilities and recognition in bettering society. He has been the leader in many initiatives that have transformed the field of psychology and of the public's perception of psychologists. Dr. DeLeon has been the leading advocate for psychologists' greater involvement in the public policy process. Through his writings, presentations, and personal mentoring, he has brought attention to both the many contributions that psychologists could have in the public policy arena and to their relative absence from the scene. A Washington "insider" as long-term staff member of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, Dr. DeLeon is extremely well versed in the art of politics and the advocacy process. But it is not just his own advocacy efforts that are noteworthy; he is tireless in his efforts to help others "learn the ropes" on the Hill through both formal mechanisms, such as the APA Congressional Fellowships, and through more informal advising and guidance. Many psychologists, timid of the prospects of advocating in Washington, have been emboldened by the patient, yet persistent, mentoring provided by Dr. DeLeon.

Dr. DeLeon also advocates within the discipline, often reminding psychologists of their "responsibility" to share their education, expertise, and commitment for bettering the human condition by becoming involved in the public policy process. As editor of the journal *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* from 1995 –2000, Dr. DeLeon included a column for each issue, entitled "News from Washington DC," that brought attention to federal and state policy issues that could benefit from the involvement and expertise of psychologists. He also featured in those columns and in full-length articles the activities of psychologists who were working on these issues, including those psychologists elected to state or federal legislatures. Such writings served as guideposts for others who wanted to get involved in advocacy activities and also showed that such work was extremely do-able and necessary.

Within professional psychology circles, Dr. DeLeon probably is best known for his active and fervent drive to acquire prescription privileges for psychologists. He was at the forefront of the design, approval, and implementation of the Department of Defense's psychopharmacology training program for psychologists. Those graduates now working within military facilities are able to augment their psychological treatments of patients with pharmacological treatment when it is needed. Dr. DeLeon also has strongly encouraged and guided psychologists as they seek prescription authority in their states. He has been extremely effective in presenting the arguments for this expansion of practice in numerous publications and in national and state presentations and debates. Fundamental to Dr. DeLeon's position is that by having the right to prescribe, psychologists also have the right not to prescribe, and therefore can be influential in curbing the overmedication of patients and the over-reliance on pharmacological treatment.

Dr. DeLeon has been an ardent supporter of the use of different training models in clinical psychology. His belief is that training should well prepare psychologists for the challenges they face in delivering effective services to all segments of U.S. society. He advocates for this position within the field, as exemplified by his October 2003 in the *American Psychologist* and exhorts psychologists to keep up to date in their knowledge and understanding of the greater trends in health care affecting psychological practice. At the same time, he has strongly advocated for a larger role for psychologists in the delivery of health care by helping to redefine psychology as a “health” position. This thereby opens up innumerable sources of funding, support, and expanded practice, long denied psychology when the mind-body dualism reigned and psychology was seen as “only” a mental health profession. Dr. DeLeon has written many articles advocating for an integrated healthcare model where psychologists and other behavioral health providers would work side-by-side with primary care providers to improve the health of patients. Dr. DeLeon advocates for psychology to get their fair share of the health care funding resources, and shows psychologists ways to do that.

Dr. DeLeon has received many awards and recognitions over the years from psychology and other health professional organizations. Most recently, at the 2009 APA conference, he was awarded the prestigious *Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology Award*, recognizing a lifetime of work on behalf of psychology. In 2004, Dr. DeLeon also was the recipient of the *Inaugural NCSPP Advocacy Individual Award*. Dr. DeLeon is one of the foremost advocates for psychology. His passion for psychology and what it can do to better society fuels his advocacy interests, activities, and training of others; and through his work, individuals, society, and psychology greatly benefit.