

Public Health Law Association Awarded Grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Public Health Law Association (PHLA), the world's leading organization for everyone who shapes, uses, teaches, and conducts research in the highly dynamic field of public health law, announced February 14, 2007 that it has been awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to build a consensus agenda on the use of law to protect and improve the public's health.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. Helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in our lifetime. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.

The project will include the development of white papers on topics such as the legal infrastructure for public health practice and the availability of legal resources for state and local health departments. These white papers will be presented at an interdisciplinary summit of leaders where consensus agenda on future partnerships between law and public health will be developed. The summit will take place concurrently with the American Public Health Association in November 2007. Recommendations from the summit will be available to the public in early 2008.

"This project is a critical step in fulfilling the mission of PHLA to promote healthy people and healthy communities through dialogue, partnerships, education, and research in public health law," says Dan O'Brien, J.D., President of PHLA. "Together with our work with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, the development of the consensus agenda will help to ensure that the possibilities for partnerships across law and public health are recognized and sustained."

The organization was incorporated in 2003 in Washington, D.C. and has staff in Atlanta, Georgia. Current Board Members include Dan O'Brien (President), Wendy Parmet (Secretary), Jean O'Connor (Treasurer), Marty Wasserman, (President-Elect), Rene Cabral-Daniels, Linda Chezem, Patricia Elliot, Gene Matthews, Anne Murphy, Charity Scott, Jane Speakman, and Lori Spencer. PHLA is an international association supported by memberships, donations, and grants from persons and organizations that share a commitment to the important relationship between the law and public health.

For more information, visit www.phla.info.

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