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## **NASUCA Presents its Highest Award, the Robert F. Manifold Award, to Maryland People's Counsel Paula M. Carmody**

Silver Spring, MD – At its 2020 Annual Meeting the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) today presented its highest award, the “Robert F. Manifold Award,” to Paula M. Carmody. Ms. Carmody has served as Maryland People’s Counsel since 2007.

Ms. Carmody has dedicated her legal career to public service and protecting consumers. She previously served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, and as an Assistant People’s Counsel in the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel. In her early legal career, she was the Managing Attorney of the Baltimore, Maryland office of the UAW-GM Legal Services Plan, and a Staff Attorney with the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.

During her time as Maryland People’s Counsel Mr. Carmody has been a passionate advocate for the mission of NASUCA, serving for many years on the NASUCA Executive Committee. Ms. Carmody served as NASUCA as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and ultimately as NASUCA President from 2011 to 2013. Paula is a nationally recognized expert on utility advocacy and a sought-after voice for utility consumers. Ms. Carmody was a member of the Electricity Advisory Committee of the Department of Energy from 2015-2017, and is an ex officio member of the Maryland Energy Administration’s Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) Advisory Board, and the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) Advisory Council.

*“I can’t think of a person that better represents the characteristics embodied by the Manifold Award,” said Jackie Roberts, West Virginia Consumer Advocate and NASUCA President. “Paula has spent her career in giving voice to people who otherwise would have no voice and giving dignity to those often overlooked in our legal process. She has been a leader and role model for all NASUCA members and NASUCA Office leaders.”*

The “Robert F. Manifold Award” is NASUCA’s highest award. It is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated the highest level of dedication to public service over their career. The award is named for Robert F. Manifold, who served as Chief Public Counsel for the Washington Attorney General’s Office and was a passionate supporter of NASUCA. Prior recipients include Sonny Popowsky (PA), Gerry Norlander (NY PULP), Betty Noel (DC People’s Counsel), David Bergmann (OH), Mr. Simon ffitich (WA), and Robert Nelson (MT)

NASUCA is a voluntary association of 45 consumer advocate offices in 41 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Barbados, along with Association and Affiliate members that also represent utility consumer interests. NASUCA’s members are designated by the laws of their respective jurisdictions to represent the interests of utility consumers before state and federal regulators and in the courts. For more information, please see <http://nasuca.org/>.