



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2022 (Silver Spring, MD)

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NASUCA Robert F. Manifold Award Lifetime Service Award and Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky Outstanding Service Award Winners

Silver Spring, MD – At its 2022 Annual Meeting, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) today presented its highest award, the “Robert F. Manifold Lifetime Service Award to Mr. Joseph Rogers, Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts Attorney General Office of Ratepayer Advocacy. The Manifold Award recognizes individuals that have spent an entire career in service to the public. Mr. Rogers has spent his career in Massachusetts and New Hampshire government, primarily with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office advocating on behalf of utility consumers. He has also served NASUCA as Chair of the NASUCA Natural Gas Committee for 14 years.

NASUCA also presented Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky Outstanding Service Awards to several former NASUCA member office leaders. The Popowsky Award recognizes individuals that have given outstanding service to NASUCA as an organization. All three award winners served on the NASUCA executive leadership team and as officers of the organization, while one served a brief time as the Interim Executive Director of NASUCA. The awards winners are:

- Janine Migden Ostrander - Former Ohio Consumer Counsel, NASUCA Officer and Executive Committee Member
- Christina Baker - Former Arkansas Advocate in the Attorney General’s Office, NASUCA Executive Committee Member
- Bill Levis - Former Colorado Consumer Counsel, NASUCA Officer and Executive Committee Member and Interim NASUCA Executive Director (2015)

“I can’t think of a group of individuals that better represents the characteristics and service embodied by the Manifold Award and Popowsky awards,” said Chris Ayers, Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff and NASUCA President. *“Joe Rogers has spent his career giving voice to people who otherwise would have no voice and giving dignity to those often overlooked in our legal process. All award winners have given exemplary*

service to NASUCA and have been leaders and role models for 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. Rob lived in Seattle for 24 years, where he worked tirelessly on consumer rights issues. He spent almost ten years with Evergreen Legal Services in Seattle. He moved to the Washington State Attorney General’s Office in 1983 and was appointed a Chief of the Consumer Protection Section and later served as Chief of the Public Counsel Section. He was active at all levels of NASUCA. Rob passed away in 2003, at the age of 58, following a long battle with chronic leukemia.

The Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky award is NASUCA’s second highest award. It is awarded to Individuals who have given outstanding service to NASUCA as an organization. Sonny Popowsky, spent his career at the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate, serving as the Consumer Advocate of Pennsylvania from 1990 to 2012. He served on the NASUCA executive leadership team for many years, holding every officer position and serving as President of the (NASUCA) from 1996 to 1998. He Chaired the NASUCA Electric Committee and served on many boards and councils on NASUCA’s behalf. In 1988, he briefed and argued the United States Supreme Court case of *Duquesne Light Company v. Barasch*, in which the Court upheld the position of the OCA that two Pennsylvania electric utilities had no constitutional right to charge consumers for the costs of four cancelled nuclear power plants

NASUCA is a voluntary association of 60 consumer advocate offices in 44 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/>.

