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NASUCA Presents its Highest Award, the Robert F. Manifold Award, to Former Washington Advocate Mr. Simon J. ffitich

Silver Spring, MD – At its 2016 Annual Meeting in La Quinta, CA, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) today voted unanimously to present its highest award, the “Robert F. Manifold Award”, to Mr. Simon ffitich. Mr. ffitich, until his retirement earlier in 2016, served for many years as the Chief of the Public Counsel’s Unit at the Washington State Attorney General’s office.

Mr. ffitich dedicated his legal career to public service, beginning work with and serving on the Board of Oregon Legal Services, a rural legal aid clinic. He then served as an Administrative Law Judge at the Oregon Public Utilities Commission and as a volunteer attorney at the Oregon Citizen’s Utility Board before moving to Seattle, Washington, where he was an Administrative Law Judge at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. In 1997, he joined the Public Counsel’s Office of the Washington Attorney General’s Office, soon thereafter being appointed Chief of the Public Counsel Unit, as position he maintained until his recent retirement.

Mr. ffitich has been a passionate advocate for the mission of NASUCA, serving for many years on the NASUCA Executive Committee. Mr. ffitich also represented Consumer Advocate Members on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, an Advisory Committee to the Federal Communications Commission.

“It is with great honor, that NASUCA presents the Robert F. Manifold Award this year to Simon ffitich”, said Bob Nelson, NASUCA President. “Simon embodies the principles and characteristics of public service recognized by the award, and it is particularly fitting in that he also worked with Rob Manifold, the award’s namesake, at the Public Counsel’s office in Washington State. This makes it a special honor to present this award to Simon.”

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) and David Bergmann (OH).

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/>.