



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 9, 2009

Contact: Leigh Ann Bradley  
703-548-0019

## **Dialysis Patient Citizens Makes Changes and Welcomes New Member to Board of Directors**

*Key Element Remains in Improving the Quality of Life of Dialysis Patients*

**Washington D.C. (January 9, 2009)** – Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) – a nationwide, non-profit patient advocacy group comprised of more than 23,000 dialysis and pre-dialysis patients and family members working to advance the quality of life of dialysis patients – announced this month, the election of new officers on the Board of Directors and announced the addition of one new board member—Charles Leggett of Colorado Springs, CO. Leggett comes to the board with a wealth of experience in the kidney environment where he has worked to understand the issues of importance to dialysis patients and the difficulties patients sometimes face.

Charles Leggett is a tireless advocate for enhancing kidney care in Colorado Springs and across the nation. A dialysis patient for eight years before receiving a kidney transplant, Leggett continues to advance care for End Stage Renal Disease by organizing visits to dialysis facilities for state lawmakers; traveling to Washington, D.C., to lobby for additional kidney care funding; and regularly visiting his old dialysis facility to help keep patients encouraged and empowered in their care. Leggett was the recipient of the April 2008 DPC Hero Award.

“The addition of Charles Leggett will enhance DPC’s ability to educate Americans about the importance of kidney health. It remains important that we educate all friends and neighbors as well as Members of Congress on the importance of education awareness and quality dialysis care,” said DPC Executive Director Chad Lennox. “We are inspired by the continued support, work and service to the kidney community of Chuck.”

Myron Zayon, of Baltimore, MD, has been elected DPC’s Board President. A member of the DPC Board of Directors for over four years, Zayon is a former peritoneal dialysis patient and a current in-center hemodialysis patient. Zayon has represented DPC as a speaker at Washington, DC Capitol Hill Briefings, in dozens of meetings with federal elected officials and at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). An educator for 25 years, Zayon feels destined to use his skills to further other causes. With much work to be done in the arena of kidney disease, Zayon looks forward to making a positive impact.

Micah Naftalin, of Washington, DC, has been elected DPC’s Board Vice President. Naftalin also a current dialysis patient has had a great deal of experience in grassroots advocacy, including activities in Russia and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union devoted to the monitoring and

advocacy of human rights. Early in his career, Naftalin was a practicing lawyer, an aide to an Alabama Congressman, chief counsel to a Congressional Committee that was assessing our government's research and development programs, and a senior "science and technology policy" member of the staff of the National Academy of Sciences/National Academy of Engineers/National Research Council -- all in Washington, D.C.

Nancy Scott, of Newark, DE, has been elected DPC's Secretary and Education Committee Chair. Scott is a registered nurse, an ordained minister, and has been an in-center hemodialysis patient since her kidney disease diagnosis in 2004. Since then, she has been involved with DPC as a Patient Ambassador. She also serves as a patient representative of Advisory Board at ESRD Network 4 and a Chairperson at Henrietta Johnson Medical Center for Clinical Evaluation Committee. Scott has also established a support group to encourage better communication between clinic staff and patients, and has traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers. Scott was the recipient of the November 2007 DPC Hero Award.

Patricia Orna, of Charlottesville, VA, has been elected DPC's Treasurer. Patricia has been a peritoneal dialysis patient most of her life. Since being on PD, Patricia has earned a Master of Business Administration from Case Western Reserve University, traveled internationally and worked for Ernst & Young for ten years in a demanding job that required extensive travel. Now, she serves as the Billing Quality Educator at the University of Virginia's Health Services Foundation. Since early 2005 Orna has been a DPC Ambassador and served as DPC's President from 2006-2008.

Erich Ditschman, of East Lansing, MI, has been elected DPC's Public Policy Committee Chair. Ditschman is the former President/CEO of Clinton River Watershed Council. Ditschman has been involved with DPC for years through his work as a DPC Patient Ambassador. He has met with Congressional leaders and staff in Washington, D.C. and over the past six years, has organized a team for the Mid Michigan Walk, which has raised over \$42,000 for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. A home hemodialysis patient, he is the moderator of Home Dialysis Users Group and was the recipient of the February 2008 DPC Hero Award, which honors an individual who goes above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of others

The majority of the members on the DPC Board of Directors are current dialysis patients. Board members are chosen based on their work experience, community service and kidney care community involvement. Board members typically have a background in advocacy and bring with them diverse knowledge and experience that allows the organization to move forward.

#### About Dialysis Patient Citizens

Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) is a nonprofit patient organization dedicated to improving dialysis patients' quality of life by developing awareness of dialysis issues, advocating for dialysis patients, improving the partnership between patients and caregivers, and promoting favorable public policy. To learn more about DPC, please visit [www.dialysispatients.org](http://www.dialysispatients.org).

# # #