The Sylva Ashworth Award for Outstanding Women in Chiropractic Regulation

Seldom have we been graced by such intimate and personal insight into the human history of this great profession, and the raw and courageous beginning of chiropractic regulation. Many thanks to Dr. Cleveland for sharing this portrait of Dr. Ashworth.

Ladies and gentlemen, today’s chiropractors, regulators, and patients owe a great debt to pioneers like Dr. Ashworth. Her work to unite licensing boards has undoubtedly served to protect countless patients, to expand opportunities for DCs, and to establish a stronger legal foundation for regulation throughout the United States.

Dr. Ashworth’s work continues in the regulators and leaders of today. Chiropractors. Trailblazers. Moral touchstones. Pioneers.

When the FCLB announced the **Sylva Ashworth Award for Outstanding Women in Chiropractic Regulation**, we probably should have expected the deluge of proposed honorees.

Since the earliest days in chiropractic, women have been on the forefront of patient-centered care.

Gender equality and opportunities for service and success were more available to pioneer women in chiropractic than in any of the other major health professions.

Certainly the qualities of teamwork and collaboration valued so highly by this Federation are not unique to women, but just as certainly women have often been very quiet contributors to regulation.

It is indeed an historic and joyful day for the Federation to shine a light on a woman who has been a worthy and tireless warrior for patients and for public protection.

Her commitment to the value of membership in the FCLB and to participation on the national regulatory stage led her challenge her own state government’s budgetary cutbacks. She single-handedly spearheaded efforts to keep her jurisdiction current and active in the Federation’s community of regulatory oversight. Her determined and consistent efforts eventually saw success. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that her state’s current regulatory board is represented here today.

However, her work has not been limited to a single jurisdiction. Or even a single profession.

As one of the early motivating forces in creating the NBCE’s original Ethics and Boundaries exam, she can, like Dr. Ashworth, lay claim to trail blazing paths for better public protection.
Currently, she is serving in her state’s legislature and is an active member of Georgia’s Health and Human Services Committee where she continues to fight for ethical and safe patient-centered care in all health professions.

Please join me in celebrating the very first recipient of the **Sylva Ashworth Award for Outstanding Women in Chiropractic Regulation** –

**Dr. Karen Mathiak**