

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization U.S. Senate Staff Briefing

“Asbestos: The Impact on Public Health, the Environment, and the Economy”

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Barry Castleman, ScD is an Environmental Consultant trained in chemical and environmental engineering. He holds a Doctor of Science degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He has been a consultant to numerous agencies of the US government and other governments, international bodies, and environmental groups dealing with a wide range of public health issues. He has testified as an expert in civil litigation in the US on the history of asbestos as a public health problem and the reasons for failure to properly control asbestos hazards. Dr. Castleman has spent the past 40 years working on asbestos as a public health problem.



Raja Flores, MD, is the Chief of Thoracic Surgery, Ames Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Flores helped pioneer the use of intraoperative chemotherapy for mesothelioma. He has also established VATS lobectomy as a gold standard in thoracic surgery, a minimally invasive approach that uses three small incisions in the treatment of lung cancer. He established the current program for this procedure at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he previously worked, and he published two sentinel studies establishing its oncological effect by demonstrating equivalent survival and recurrence rates but fewer complications and shorter hospital stays when compared to standard thoracotomy. He belongs to numerous medical and surgical

societies and serves on several editorial boards.



Tom Laubenthal currently serves as the Technical Chief for The Environmental Institute in Marietta, GA where he is responsible for the development and maintenance of a variety of training programs related to asbestos and lead-based paint control industries. He has 29 years of industry service with a significant experience base in the asbestos control industry. He has served as a PLM Technical Expert for the NIST/NVLAP program since 1988. He has served as the National President of the Environmental Information Association, and was the founding President of the Georgia Chapter. Mr. Laubenthal serves on a variety of national-level committees, has published extensively in print and e-media, and regularly speaks nationally and internationally in the area of asbestos detection and control. He received his B.S. in Geology from Georgia State University.



Richard Lemen, PhD is a former Assistant Surgeon General of the United States and also served as the Acting Director and the Deputy Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health before his retirement. He has been a practicing epidemiologist for more than forty years, and has taught graduate level courses on environmental and occupational health issues, including asbestos, at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. He has also testified on behalf of asbestos victims; Dr. Lemen is a world-renowned author, speaker, and lecturer on this topic. Dr. Lemen has a Presidential appointment and serves as a member of the Advisory Board for Radiation and Worker Health.



Ellen Volk Patton is a mesothelioma patient dedicated to raising asbestos awareness, advocacy and support. In 2001, at 41 years old, she was diagnosed with bilateral malignant pleural mesothelioma. She has bravely fought with an alternative treatment option, immune therapy. Ellen is a very positive person and her strengths shine through with her desire to share her story and educate others on asbestos exposure.

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

"United for Asbestos Disease Awareness, Education, Advocacy, Prevention, Support and a Cure"

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Linda Reinstein is the President/CEO and Co-Founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO). Reinstein became an activist when her husband, Alan, was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2003. She has been a strong political voice for justice in asbestos-related issues, pursuing ADAO's education, advocacy and community initiatives. Reinstein is an international speaker, has frequently served as a Congressional witness, and presented at the Department of Labor (OSHA), British House of Commons, United Nations World Congress, and American Public Health Association. With 35 years experience building and sustaining grassroots non-profit organizations, Reinstein specializes in developing, implementing, and leveraging integrated social media campaigns focused on international occupational and environmental disease prevention.