

# MEET NCPA'S NEW PRESIDENT BRADLEY J. ARTHUR



by Michael F. Conlan

Unlike most people who grew up in a pharmacy family, Brad Arthur's first job wasn't at one of his father's eight stores. "I didn't want my buddies to think that the only reason I got a job in a pharmacy is because my father owned one," Arthur recalled recently. "So when I turned 16, I went to work in a gas station. After three months my father said, 'OK. You've made your point. You start in the pharmacy Monday.'"

And pharmacy has been a family affair ever since. Brad works with his sister at Black Rock Pharmacy, one of the two pharmacies he and his brother, Donald J. Arthur Jr., co-own in Buffalo, N.Y. His brother served as his preceptor. Their father, Donald J. Arthur Sr., was NCPA president in 1988-89 and introduced Brad when he was elected NCPA 5th vice president in 2001. Brad is the first son to succeed his father as NCPA president.

In his acceptance speech to the House of Delegates in October, Brad repeated his father's words from the 1989 Annual Convention when he said independent community pharmacy "must work closely with those in industry and in medicine who support us and confront those that hurt pharmacy...these sentiments still hold true today and I pledge to work and fight each and every day to ensure that our friends appreciate us, and our adversaries respect us.

"NCPA is the loudest, most credible voice for independent community pharmacy, and I assure that our commitment to advocacy efforts will not go away; they will not go unnoticed; and we will not relent until there is meaningful change for independent community pharmacy and the patients we serve."

Arthur is a 1987 graduate of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. He is past president and board chair of the Pharmacists Society of the State of New York.

At the NCPA 2015 Annual Convention, Arthur was the pharmacy representative on a panel asked to look at the role of pharmacists in the future. He said that about 10 years ago various stakeholders in pharmacy came together to address how best to help move the profession forward.

"We got started in the colleges of pharmacy," Arthur said. "We have to ensure that pharmacists are participants such that they are going to be able to deliver value-based services, which we know are going to be a fundamental part of health care moving forward; [that] pharmacy students and the recent graduates have the skill sets to be able to provide these services. It is incumbent upon us to repurpose those skills for the betterment of patients. I'm convinced we're headed in the right direction."

Michael F. Conlan is editor of *America's Pharmacist*.

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