

by Jayne Cannon



Photo by Justin Lane

## Michael Minesinger, RPh

[www.ncpa.org/ap](http://www.ncpa.org/ap)

**PHARMACY:** Owner, Alwan Pharmacy and Compounding Center, Peoria, Ill., and Morton Alwan Pharmacy, Morton, Ill.

**AGE:** 62

**FAMILY:** Wife, Nancy. Daughter, Katie.

**EDUCATION:** University of Illinois College of Pharmacy BS 1985; University of Illinois College of Law 1988.

**FACTORY-TESTED:** Mike didn't go straight into college after high school. College was his goal, but his parents weren't going to pay for it. So, he went to work in a factory and put in some hard manual labor to earn his tuition.

**DISCOVERING PHARMACY:** While at the factory, Mike developed allergies which resulted in pharmacy visits. He couldn't help but notice that the pharmacy seemed to be a better work environment than the factory.

**CAREER CONSIDERATIONS:** Mike liked the idea of a career in the medical profession but he wasn't keen on blood and wounds. "I had a high ick factor," he says, but he figured he wouldn't see much of that in a pharmacy.

**TAKING THE LAW INTO HIS HANDS:** After pharmacy school, Mike headed for law school. He earned a degree and passed the bar, but he let his license expire when he bought a pharmacy. The degree comes in handy often, he says, especially when he's reading pharmacy legislation.

**BLACK AND WHITE:** Mike realized that pharmacy was more "intellectually satisfying" to him for a simple reason. "I like having one answer. I like that when you mix this and reduce that, you know exactly what you're going to get. There's a certainty." With law, there's a lot of gray, he said.

**PHARMACY PASSION:** "I can help people feel better. That's my juice."

**NCPA'S VALUE TO ME:** "NCPA is the voice for independent pharmacy. There are a lot of organizations out there, but NCPA is specifically for independent pharmacy. It's our voice."