

June 20, 2022

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
ATTN: Awards Committee Chair  
44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 301  
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Dr. H. Westley Clark Nomination for the 2022 NAADAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legend Award

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I nominate Dr. H. Westley Clark, for the 2022 NAADAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legend Award. Given his replete 35-year history of robust dedication to the field of addictions, mental health, public policy, and exemplary contributions to NAADAC and its members, there is no single person more qualified or deserving of this distinct honor than that of H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H.

As a practicing physician, attorney, and public health professional working in the United States, Dr. Clark's service to NAADAC and the substance abuse treatment field has had such a profound effect upon our profession that the results of such will not be fully realized until years to come. Having served in a variety of roles throughout his stellar professional career, Dr. Clark's extraordinary contributions have been broadly evidenced among the following core domains of behavioral healthcare: academics, research, public policy, prevention, administration, treatment, harm reduction, integrated systems of care, professional development, and treatment methodology. There is not one single area pertaining to addictions treatment that Dr. Clark has not made an extensive contribution!

Whether in an academic or administrative environment, legal or clinical setting, intervention program, criminal justice milieu, or prevention modality, Dr. Clark's outstanding work in each of these areas has made an historical impact upon the field of substance abuse counseling in a very meaningful and productive way. From the establishment of the National Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (NATTC), and Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC), to the American Society of Addiction Medicine Levels of Care (ASAM), to the U.S. Drug Abuse Interagency Taskforce and Department of Defense/VA Substance Abuse Treatment Guidelines, either directly or indirectly, Dr. Clark's contributions are broadly realized throughout these works. From the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA's) Principles of Effective Treatment to the plethora of Technical Assistance Publications (TAP) and Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIP) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Dr. Clark's conspicuous imprint is present.

Having served as the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Director for 16 years, in various leadership roles for the Veterans Health Administration for 12 years, three years as an advisor to the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, and editor of the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health, Dr. Clark's unique signature is further distinguished throughout his service to the U.S. Government. Given his extensive clinical research and written work in over 60 journals, periodicals, book chapters, articles, and special publications, Dr. Clark's inciteful investigations are featured in hundreds of scholastic guidelines across the world.

As a health and human services pioneer, academic, and staunch advocate of the addiction treatment field, Dr. Clark has served as a coach, mentor, and special advisor for a variety of prominent leaders in our profession, including a host of NAADAC presidents, executive committee members, and executive directors. His inspiring presentations and keynote addresses at NAADAC conferences are too numerous to list; however, his presence and wise counsel amongst our association's members for over three decades has left an indelible footprint. For these and so many other reasons, he is a legend!

Commensurate with his extraordinary work in our profession, exemplary impact in addictions research and education, and pristine contributions to NAADAC and the public good, I also respectfully petition that NAADAC establish an entirely new award category in his honor.

Given his years of service and rich history of robust dedication as a leader in the addiction field and broad impact of contributions in so many areas of our field, I proudly endorse Dr. H. Westley Clark, J.D., M.P.H. for the 2022 NAADAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legend Award.

*Thurston Smith*

Sincerely,

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