



**FOR RELEASE:
January 23, 2008**

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Rena Steinzor Succeeds Tom McGarity as CPR President

Washington, DC ---- The board of directors of the Center for Progressive Reform today announced that Professor Rena Steinzor has been selected to succeed Professor Thomas McGarity as President of the five-year old national network of progressive scholars.

Steinzor, like McGarity, is one of the organization's original founders, and has served on the board since its creation in 2002. She is a professor at the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, with a secondary appointment to the University's School of Medicine. Before entering academia, Steinzor practiced environmental law, served as a committee counsel in the U.S. House of Representatives, and consulted for the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Rena Steinzor brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to the challenge, and I'm thrilled she's agreed to serve," said McGarity. "I've enjoyed my tenure as President of CPR tremendously, and I'm proud of the work we've done to get the organization up and running, and turn it into a progressive force that taps the intellectual resources of scholars at universities across the nation. I never intended to be a 'lifer' as President, and think that after five years, it's time to step down, just as an academic dean or department chair would. There's nobody I'd rather see in the position than Rena, and I'm looking forward to working with her." McGarity will continue to serve on the organization's board of directors. He is a Professor of Law at the University of Texas in Austin.

"I'm excited about the chance to work with so many distinguished scholars, on such important issues," Steinzor said. "We face extraordinary challenges as a nation, on the environment, on reinvigorating the health and safety protections that seven years of the Bush Administration have rendered toothless, on lifting the veil of excessive secrecy that now shields the workings of government from public view, and more. CPR's Member Scholars are extraordinary men and women, with far-reaching ideas and a passion for change. It's my privilege to serve them."

Steinzor recently published *Mother Earth and Uncle Sam: How Pollution and Hollow Government Hurt Our Kids*, available in bookstores, at Amazon.com, and on the website of the publisher, the University of Texas Press. The book traces the failure of the government over the past 20 years to protect American children from pollution from toxic chemicals, focusing particularly on mercury, perchlorate (rocket fuel and munitions), and ground-level ozone.

Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Maryland in 1994, Steinzor served as the partner in charge of the environmental practice at Spiegel & McDiarmid. Before that, she served as Staff Counsel, Subcommittee on Commerce, Transportation, and Tourism of the Energy and Commerce Committee, U.S. House of Representatives (James J. Florio, Chairman). She was the primary staff person responsible for legislation that became the “Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986” and the “Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act,” and she prepared legislation to reauthorize the Toxic Substances Control Act during the 98th Congress. She and her children live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

*The **Center for Progressive Reform** is a nonprofit research and educational organization whose network of scholars across the nation is dedicated to protecting health, safety, and the environment through analysis and commentary. For more information, contact Matthew Freeman at 301-762-8980 or at mfreeman@progressivereform.org. Visit CPR on the web at www.progressivereform.org.*