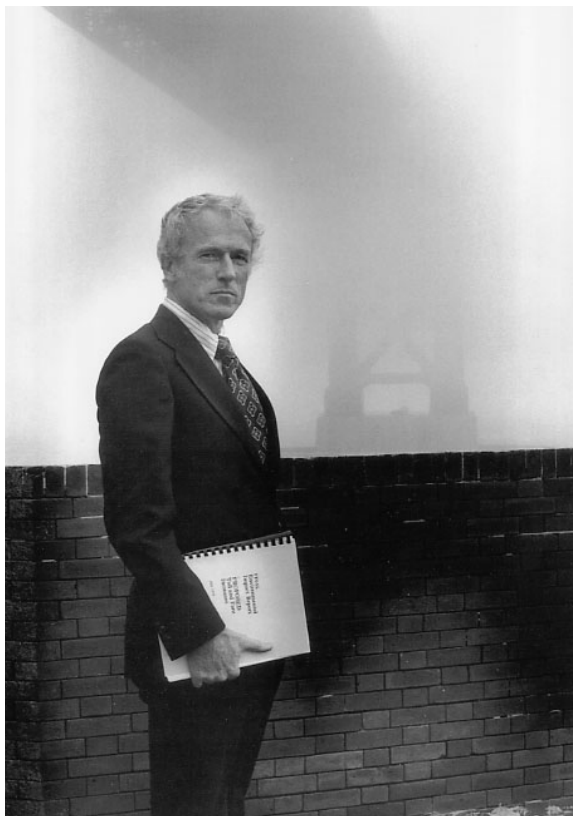


*Lynn Carman JD*



*Protecting MediCal*



The MHF is giving Lynn Carman the **2004 Award for Vision and Achievement (AVA)** for obtaining a federal court injunction in the **5% MediCal Cut Lawsuit**. This victory is extremely significant for MediCal patients both now and in the future, with the current governor threatening more cuts. The judge ruled that such cuts cannot be made without consideration for provider costs, quality of care, and equal access to care. This has stopped at least temporarily a devastating cut in the public insurance program for millions of California's poor and disabled residents. Once more, Lynn has protected California's tattered public healthcare system from complete disintegration.

In 2003, the California Legislature passed a budget "balanced" in large part by a crippling 5% cut in MediCal payments to healthcare providers who care for California's neediest residents. For years, California has been paying providers the lowest rates in the nation. As a consequence, they increasingly no longer will treat MediCal patients because they cannot afford to do so. Today, many areas of California have no providers who will care for this population.

After Lynn filed his suit, the California Medical Association filed a similar suit. Lynn and the CMA currently are fighting the State's appeal. Lynn says it is *deja vu* all over again. The State tried to cut MediCal rates 10% in 1987, but he and the CMA obtained a permanent federal injunction to stop it.

Through his dogged work and creative approaches, Lynn has been quietly winning legal victories on behalf of consumers, the poor, seniors, and the disabled that have benefitted millions of people. For example, most people are unaware that Lynn is responsible for the Golden Gate Transit District becoming one of the first public bus systems in the country to offer access to riders with disabilities.

Lynn was born in Independence, Kansas, the quintessential American small town William Inge immortalized in "Picnic." He has been a reporter, a Deputy District Attorney, and a Public Defender. Lynn is a widower with four children and seven grandchildren. For more about Lynn's cases, [click here](#).