

HONOREE: JULIA QUINT



Integrity. Commitment. Always ask: What about the workers?

Julia Quint has put those qualities to good use, with a legacy of improved occupational health protections for workers and as a sterling example of how scientists can use their knowledge for public good.

California has better permissible exposure limits (PELs) for work-related toxic hazards because of Julia. She played an important part in the successful effort to ensure the state's green chemistry regulations recognize workers' roles in producing, using, and disposing of consumer products. And we have a better right-to-know regulation in California than anywhere in the U.S. because she demanded that chemical companies tell the truth about the ingredients of their products and the hazards they present, using her knowledge and experience to make the case.

Julia is a fountain of knowledge about chemicals and their hazards, and has an understanding of history and an approach that integrates occupational and environmental health. Just as important, she's ethical; she puts public health—especially worker health—ahead of private profits, hidden hazards, and toxic trespass.

During many years working as a biochemist and toxicologist, she's left important, often-uncredited marks on many documents, reports, public policies, and health and safety regulations. "Retired" these days, she continues to do this in local, state, and national settings, especially around green chemistry solutions for chemical hazards.

Julia always has been a ground-breaker and leader. She graduated with a biochemistry degree from Xavier University in 1960, and got a PhD in the field from the University of Southern California in 1973. She's been a wife, a devoted mother of two and, more recently, proud grandmother of two, while working in public health and chemical policy positions. She continues to serve on national and state scientific committees (including the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Green Ribbon Science Panel), has written many peer-reviewed scientific articles and reports, and received awards and recognition from national and state organizations for her work.

Julia is best known as a research scientist and toxicologist, and then Chief, at the Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service (HESIS) in the Occupational Health Branch of California's Department of Public Health. There, she translated technical scientific information about toxic chemicals into clear language for workers and employers, materials that alert them to new information about job-related hazards. The early warnings and clear language materials were important information workers and their advocates could, and did, use to take action.

Worksafe has benefitted tremendously from Julia Quint's knowledge, commitment, and support, as a past member of our Board of Directors and in other capacities. We thank her for that support and her steadfast and continuing advocacy for workers' health.