NASW-PA Announces Dean Richard Gelles Public Citizen of the Year

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Pennsylvania Chapter, named Richard J. Gelles, PhD, 2012 Citizen of the Year.

Dr. Gelles serves as the Dean and holds The Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence in the School of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Co-Faculty Director of the Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice, and Research. In addition, he was the Founding Director of the Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence.

His book, The Violent Home was the first systematic empirical investigation of family violence and continues to be highly influential. He is the author or coauthor of 26 books and more than 150 articles and chapters on family violence. His latest books are Current Controversies on Family Violence, 2nd Edition (with Donilene Loseke and Mary Cavanaugh—Sage Publications, 2005) and The Third Lie: Why Government Programs Don’t Work—And a Blueprint for Change (Left Coast Press, 2011).
In 1998 Secretary of Health & Human Services, Donna Shalala appointed Gelles to the Kinship Care Advisory Panel of the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families. Gelles was a member of the National Academy of Science's panel on "Assessing Family Violence Interventions." He was also the Vice President for Publications for the National Council on Family Relations.

Gelles received his A.B. degree from Bates College (1968), an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Rochester (1971), and a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of New Hampshire (1973). He edited the journal, Teaching Sociology from 1973 to 1981 and received the American Sociological Association, Section on Undergraduate Education, and “Outstanding Contributions to Teaching Award” in 1979. In 1999 Gelles received the “Award for Career Achievement in Research” from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. Gelles has presented innumerable lectures to policy-making groups and media groups, including THE TODAY SHOW, CBS MORNING NEWS, GOOD MORNING AMERICA, THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW, DATELINE, and ALL THINGS CONSIDERED. In 1984 ESQUIRE named him to one of the men and women who are "changing America."

Presently, Gelles lives in Philadelphia with his wife Judy, a photographer. His son Jason graduated Harvard University in 1996 and is a four-time Emmy Award winning comedy writer. His son David graduated Tufts University in 1999 and is a four-time Emmy Award winning producer at NBC.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 145,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies.