



Celeste Monforton, MPH has been an enthusiastic and committed advocate for worker health and safety, first in the federal government and now in academia. She served as a policy analyst at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from 1991 - 1995, and then as a special assistant to the Assistant Secretary at the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) from 1996 - 2001. While at MSHA, she focused particular attention on initiatives to reduce miner's exposure to health hazards, such as coal mine dust, crystalline silica, diesel particulate matter, and noise; in 2000 she received the Secretary of Labor's Exceptional Achievement Award in recognition of her work. During her time at MSHA, she learned about Dr. Lorin Kerr, his commitment to the protection of mine workers, and his role in crafting the landmark Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. When Celeste read (in Rosner and Markowitz's *Deadly Dust*) that Lorin Kerr was a former president of APHA and was also involved with other public health organization, she wanted to be part of that field, too. She joined APHA in 1997 and has been an active member of the OHS Section serving as Program Chair (2002-2004), Secretary (2006) and Governing Counselor (2007-2008).

Ms. Monforton left federal service to pursue graduate studies in public health. She works on the Project on Scientific Knowledge and Public Policy (SKAPP) at The George Washington University School of Public Health, where she continues to draw attention to the hazards workers face and the actions needed to address them. Her articles have appeared in scientific and legal journals, and she covers occupational health and safety issues for the public health blog *The Pump Handle*.

In 2006, she served as senior investigator with J. Davitt McAteer in the State of West Virginia's special investigation into the Sago Mine disaster. Following that experience, she realized more than ever the vital role family members can have in strengthening policies to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths. Celeste thrives on

opportunities to use her knowledge of OSHA and MSHA to help workers take full advantage of their rights under the law. She is proud to be affiliated with United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities (USMWF) and its efforts to build a strong activists voice for victims of workplace hazards, including the loved ones left behind.