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NEWS RELEASE

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National Association of Attorneys General Announces New Slate of Officers and Winners of 2005 Annual Association Awards

The National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) announced that Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter has been elected president for 2005-2006, serving with Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker as president-elect; Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden as vice president; and Vermont Attorney General William H. Sorrell as immediate past president.

The announcement was made during NAAG's 2005 Summer Meeting, held June 21-24 in Big Sky, Montana, where 36 Attorneys General and their staffs from around the country gathered to discuss key legal issues involving antitrust, consumer protection, criminal law, gang violence, methamphetamine initiatives, pharmaceutical pricing, prescription drug abuse, sexually violent predators, homeland security and technology.

Newly-elected NAAG President, Attorney General Carter, announced during his presidential speech that he would work to enhance the transparency of NAAG and its public accountability. He also said that in the coming year, the Association will examine the role of Attorneys General in stamping out public corruption.

"As the next president, I will focus on enhancing the transparency of the organization and strive to maintain accountability as we all face the challenge of meeting the needs of our constituencies," Attorney General Carter said. "As the chief legal officers of the states, Attorneys General are especially attuned to illegal actions by those vested with

governmental authority. Public confidence in our democratic institutions can be severely shaken when there is wrongdoing by those in positions of public trust.”

“Public corruption undermines the respect and honor associated with public service, that we as Attorneys General cherish so much,” Attorney General Carter said. “A primary initiative for our organization during the next year will be to examine Public Corruption by analyzing its nature, its impact and consequences and specifically how Attorneys General may work to diminish its corrosive influence.”

Outgoing NAAG President, Vermont Attorney General William H. Sorrell, delivered his final remarks as NAAG’s president.

“It has been an unforgettable honor serving as NAAG’s president. Now, I am happy to place the gavel in the capable hands of Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter,” Attorney General Sorrell said.

As NAAG’s president, Attorney General Sorrell focused on the spiraling costs of prescription drugs. On June 20, he issued his presidential report, “Addressing the Cost and Benefits of Prescription Drugs,” which provides information about the prescription drug industry, the divergent views of leading thinkers on pharmaceutical prices and the varied responses of states.

During the meeting, Attorneys General passed a resolution encouraging states to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat the manufacture, trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine. The resolution also encourages the federal government to increase efforts to stop cross-border smuggling of methamphetamine and the chemicals used in its manufacture; enact federal legislation to combat the manufacture, trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine, while enabling states to respond to local circumstances; and assist state, local and territorial law enforcement by providing additional resources to address issues related to methamphetamine.

The Association also announced its annual award winners:

- **Oklahoma Attorney General W. A. Drew Edmondson** received the *Kelley-Wyman Award*, the Association’s highest honor given to the Attorney General who has done the most to achieve the objectives of NAAG;
- The *Marvin Award*, given annually to individuals who serve on the staffs of state Attorneys General and who have furthered the goals of NAAG, had several recipients including: **Assistant Attorney General Patricia A. Connors**, director of the Antitrust Division for Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist; **Supervising Deputy Attorney General Susan E. Henrichsen**, of the Consumer Law Section of California Attorney General Bill Lockyer’s office; and **Chief Deputy Attorney General Wallace Malley** in Vermont Attorney General William H. Sorrell’s office;

- Former New York Attorney General **Bob Abrams** received the *Francis X. Bellotti Award*, which recognizes an outstanding member of the Society of Attorneys General Emeriti (SAGE), who has provided assistance to NAAG. SAGE was created to provide support to Attorneys General after serving their terms of office;
- The *Laurie Loveland Award* was presented to **Susan Walker**, tobacco counsel for Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro. The award recognizes individuals within an Attorney General's office who have helped to advance the work of Attorneys General on tobacco-related issues; and
- Individuals from the *Alabama, Illinois, New York* and *Texas* offices of the Attorney General were recognized for excellence in brief writing in the U.S. Supreme Court. Recipients of the Supreme Court Best Briefs Award were: **Solicitor General Kevin Newsom**, of Alabama; **Solicitor General Gary Feinerman** and **Assistant Attorneys General Linda Woloshin** and **Mary Fleming**, of Illinois; **Solicitor General Caitlin Halligan**, **Deputy Solicitor General Daniel Smirlock** and **Assistant Solicitors General Jean Lin** and **Julie Loughran**, of New York; and **Solicitor General Ted Cruz** and **Assistant Solicitors General Sean Jordan**, **Kris Monson** and **Adam Aston** of Texas.

The National Association of Attorneys General was founded in 1907 to help Attorneys General fulfill the responsibilities of their offices and to assist in the delivery of high quality legal services to the states and territorial jurisdictions. NAAG fosters interstate cooperation on legal and law enforcement issues, conducts policy research and analysis of issues, and facilitates communication between the states' chief legal officers and all levels of government.

For more details regarding the 2005 NAAG Summer Meeting, visit www.naag.org.

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