



Center for Telemedicine Law

1301 K Street NW, East Tower, 9th Floor
Washington DC 20005-3317
202-230-5090 Main
202-230-5303 Fax Direct
telemedicine@ctl.org
www.ctl.org

Contact: Jackie Eder-Van Hook
202-230-5103
jackie@ctl.org

For Immediate Release

CTL General Counsel Robert J. Waters Honored by National Council of State Boards of Nursing for His Work on Licensure Issues

Washington, D.C. – Robert J. Waters, General Counsel to the Center for Telemedicine Law was honored by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) on August 5, 2004 during NCSBN's annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.

NCSBN Board of Directors President, Donna Dorsey, MS, RN, FAAN recognized Mr. Waters for “outstanding contributions to the development of new model of nursing regulation for the 21st century, the Nurse Licensure Compact 2004.” Mr. Waters was instrumental in drafting the Nurse Licensure Compact, supported efforts to pass state compact legislation, and for his many special contributions to the Council’s mission.

NCSBN President, Dorsey, said “Bob Waters was chosen as a legal consultant for NCSBN because of his expertise and experience with telemedicine/telehealth and regulatory issues as evidenced by both his position as general counsel with the Center for Telemedicine Law, and his legal practice where he specialized in health care, regulatory and government relations practice. But more than that, Bob is a visionary. He understands the future of regulation and licensing issues. As a problem-solver, he listens and pays attention making him able to address a variety of concerns. He is committed to and puts considerable energy into improving the quality and access to health care for all. We are delighted to honor Bob in this way.”

The Nurse Licensure Compact is an agreement between participating states to recognize the licenses of registered nurses (RN) and licensed practical and/or vocational nurses (LPN/LVN) governed under the Compact as their own. Currently, 20 states have adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact and legislation has been introduced in another seven states.

Mr. Waters has been active on licensure issues on behalf of the Center for Telemedicine Law and his other telehealth clients, including the NCSBN. He has spoken to countless audiences on the impact of state licensure on telehealth. Mr. Waters has advocated that states adopt a Compact similar to the Nurse Licensure Compact, so that patients will continue to have the best access to care, regardless of where they reside.

Joe Tracy, President, Board of Directors of the Center for Telemedicine Law said, “This is a well-deserved award. Bob is a dedicated supporter of increasing access to health care, especially in rural or remote settings, and telemedicine is one of the ways in which that happens. Bob continually advocates for overcoming the barriers to the greater utilization of telemedicine and helps us to educate on issues of licensure, reimbursement, and technology adoption.”

Mr. Waters is a partner at Gardner Carton & Douglas, where he serves as the Chair of the Government Relations practice and a member of the Health Law practice. Mr. Waters is nationally recognized as an authority in e-health, telemedicine and health information services. Mr. Waters served as a member of the Board of the American Telemedicine Association.

Prior to beginning his law practice, Mr. Waters served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) from 1983 to 1987. Between 1979 and 1983, Mr. Waters served in the Executive Branch as a policy/budget analyst in the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Waters received his B.A. degree from Iowa State University, his M.P.A. from Harvard Kennedy School of Government and his J.D. degree from Georgetown University.

###