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NCSLA ANNOUNCES *HALL OF FAME* INDUCTEES

June 27, 2019 – The National Conference of State Liquor Administrators, Incorporated (NCSLA) is pleased to announce two inductees to the NCSLA *Hall of Fame* in 2019, **Mr. Richard Blau** of the law firm GrayRobinson, P.A. in Tampa, Florida and **Mr. Steve Gross** with the Wine Institute in San Francisco, California. They are the newest members of this elite group of 10 and were inducted in June at the 2019 Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. “One of the very great privileges of being President is presiding over the nomination and voting process for the consideration of *Hall of Fame* nominees. Simply being nominated to the *Hall of Fame* is a feat, being selected by the Executive Committee is monumental. Richard and Steve are both humble giants in the beverage alcohol industry who give countless hours to the membership of the NCSLA and, as such, are most deserving of this recognition. Their default answer to requests for help is YES; while their desire in return is solely the satisfaction of aiding and educating their colleagues,” stated NCSLA President Jeffrey A. Kelly of Maryland.

The NCSLA *Hall of Fame* honors any past or present state member or associate member of the NCSLA based on their contributions to the NCSLA and the beverage alcohol industry. Induction into the *Hall of Fame* requires a vote of no less than three-quarters of the current voting members of the Executive Committee in accordance with the NCSLA By-Laws. To learn more about the NCSLA *Hall of Fame* program visit www.ncsla.org for details.



Richard Blau is a shareholder of GrayRobinson, P.A., serves as chairman of the law firm's Alcohol Beverage & Food Law Department, and heads up the firm's *Nationwide Alcohol Industry Team* focusing on the rules and regulations that govern the marketing, sale and consumption of distilled spirits, wine, beer, and other licensed beverages. Richard has been rated “Band 1” for Alcohol Beverage Law by *Chambers USA* since 2007. He also is listed in *Best Lawyers in America*, and is “AV” rated by *Martindale-Hubbell*.

A substantial portion of Richard's professional efforts are focused on trade regulations, litigation and dispute resolution involving the hospitality industry. He has lectured on Twenty First Amendment issues at meetings of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (NCSLA), and is well known for routinely presenting a “Legal Update” of important cases at NCSLA annual conferences. Mr. Blau received his B.A. from Brandeis University and his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Steve Gross is Vice President, State Relations at Wine Institute, where he has been employed since 1986. He oversees the activities of Wine Institute's six State Relations Regional Counsels and Regional Managers as they address state legislation affecting the wine industry, as well as coordinating Wine Institute's legislative and regulatory activities with staff, contract lobbyists and member wineries.



Steve regularly participates in many national programs dealing with issues facing the wine industry, both on the legislative and regulatory levels. His involvement with NCSLA has spanned nearly 30 years and he has been an active presenter at many of its conferences. Steve serves on the Board of Directors of the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB). He also serves on the Sonoma State University Wine Business Institute's Executive Board. A native of Nebraska, Steve brought to Wine Institute knowledge garnered during his ten years of employment in the on-sale food and beverage industry, as well as extensive experience in political campaigns and legislative activism.

About National Conference of State Liquor Administrators, Incorporated:

A national, non-profit corporation founded in 1934, in Chicago, Illinois, NCSLA is composed of state regulators as active members, and associate members consisting of manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, law firms, associations, and other service-related organizations in the alcoholic beverages sector. Currently, regulatory agencies from 42 of 50 states and the District of Columbia are active NCSLA members. The primary focus of NCSLA is education on historical and current issues related to the regulation of alcoholic beverages. Visit www.ncsla.org for more information.