



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NCSLA ANNOUNCES *HALL OF FAME* INDUCTEES

June 22, 2020 – The National Conference of State Liquor Administrators, Incorporated (NCSLA) is pleased to announce three inductees to the NCSLA *Hall of Fame* in 2020: **Mr. A. Keith Burt** of the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commission, **Ms. Lynne J. Omlie** with the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS), and **Mr. Charles E. Smarr** of the law firm Brydon, Swearingen & England P.C. in Jefferson City, Missouri. They are the newest members of this elite group of 13 and were inducted on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the 2020 Virtual Annual Conference. “All three 2020 *Hall of Fame* inductees are very deserving of this prestigious award as long-standing NCSLA members and renowned experts in the alcoholic beverage industry. As the highly anticipated recognition of this year’s inductees could not take place with all members together, we look forward to celebrating these outstanding NCSLA members at our next in-person meeting,” stated NCSLA President Anna C. Hirai of Honolulu, Hawaii.

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](http://www.ncsla.org) for details.



**Keith Burt** has been involved in Oklahoma state government for over 40 years. He has served as auditor for the Department of Human Services, the Oil and Gas Division of the Oklahoma Tax Commission, and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, where he was the lead financial auditor, auditing Mental Health Centers

He joined the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board in 1980. In 1985, the citizens of Oklahoma approved a constitutional change to allow liquor-by-the-drink on a county option basis and renamed the ABC Board to the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commission. During the 1990s, the commission added prevention of youth access to tobacco and enforcement of charitable gaming. After serving as director for both divisions, Keith became executive director in 2002 and remains in that position today. Now serving under his eighth governor, Keith has been appointed to the Governor’s Task force on Underage Drinking, the Tobacco Use Cessation Advisory Committee, and the Governor’s Impaired Driving Prevention Advisory Council. He received the Center for Alcohol Policy’s prestigious Regulator of the Year award in 2014.

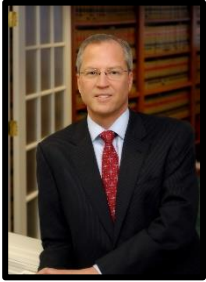
Keith has served as regional chairman of the NCSLA Southern Region and was President in 2017-18. Attending his first NCSLA national convention in 1981, he has been a part of the Oklahoma team hosting NCSLA regionals in 1986, 2001, 2012, and the NCSLA National Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1989.

**Lynne Omlie** currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS). DISCUS is a national trade association representing producers and marketers of distilled spirits and importers of wine sold in the United States. DISCUS is the leading voice and advocate for distilled spirits in the United States. DISCUS advocates for the industry on legislative, regulatory, and public affairs issues; promotes improving market access to distilled spirits; and encourages responsible and moderate consumption.



Before moving into her current role, Ms. Omlie served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Inc. (DISCUS) for over three decades. During this time, Ms. Omlie has served as staff liaison for the DISCUS Code Review Board and led

the DISCUS Laws and Regulations Committee, among several others. Prior to joining DISCUS, Ms. Omlie was in private practice at Howrey & Simon and also worked at the Federal Trade Commission for Commissioner David A. Clanton.



**Charlie Smarr** practices primarily in the areas of **alcohol beverage law** and **liquor licensing**. He is a former supervisor of the Missouri Division of Liquor Control, Assistant Attorney General of Missouri and past president of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators. His practice with the firm primarily involves representing interests of members of the alcohol beverage industry by providing corporate, administrative, licensing and regulatory legal services. He is general counsel for the Missouri Beer Wholesalers Association; Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Committee on Beverage Alcohol Practice (Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice); Sustaining Member of the National Association of Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Attorneys (NAABLA); and a Founding Member of The Alliance of Alcohol Industry Attorneys and Consultants. He is also a Member of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (NCSLA), the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA), the National Association of Licensing and Compliance Professionals (NALCP), and the Academy of Hospitality Industry Attorneys (AHIA).

**About National Conference of State Liquor Administrators, Incorporated:**

A national 501(c)(3) 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 41 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](http://www.ncsla.org) for more information.