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NCSLA ANNOUNCES *HALL OF FAME* INDUCTEE

July 10, 2024 – The National Conference of State Liquor Administrators, Incorporated (NCSLA) is pleased to announce the 2024 inductee to the NCSLA *Hall of Fame*, **Mr. Jeffrey A. Kelly** of the Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission. He is the fourteenth member of this elite group and was inducted in June at the 2024 Annual Conference in Washington, DC. “As the NCSLA celebrates its 90th anniversary, it is my extreme pleasure to congratulate a true legend on his selection to the NCSLA Hall of Fame! Jeff Kelly is a long-time leader in the regulatory arena and an even better person,” stated NCSLA President Ernest P. Legier, Jr. of Louisiana.

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.



Jeffrey A. Kelly’s entire professional career has been dedicated to providing exceptional public service. At the age of 19, Mr. Kelly joined the Anne Arundel County Fire Department as a firefighter and two years later became a nationally certified paramedic. Within four years he transferred to the Anne Arundel County Police (AACO) Department as a police officer, where he served honorably for another 17 years and retired as a lieutenant and executive officer in 2002.

That very same year, Jeff was sought out by the Comptroller’s Office of Maryland to serve as a supervisor in its Field Enforcement Division (FED). It was in the FED that Jeff began to specifically handle issues related to alcoholic beverage regulation, oversight, and enforcement. Seven years later, Jeff was named Assistant Director and shortly after Director of the Field Enforcement Division, where he served in that capacity until 2021, when he was appointed by Maryland’s Governor to the position of Executive Director of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC). In 2023, the ATC was renamed the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission, where Jeff continues to serve as its Executive Director.

One of Jeff’s most important industry-specific accomplishments was his support for the fledgling craft beer movement. He is recognized as an expert in alcohol tax and regulatory matters and well-respected throughout the business community as “pro-business” while ensuring that tax and regulatory requirements are fairly administered.

Jeff joined the NCSLA as an ex-officio member on behalf of the Comptroller in 2008 to learn more about the industry, associated stakeholders, and national trends taking root in other States. He readily volunteered to participate as a presenter in panel discussions at both regional and national events. Jeff soon became interested in leadership positions within the Northern Region, serving as Vice Chair and then Chair. He also served as the host organization to the 2011 Northern/Southern Regional conference in Annapolis and again to the 2015 Northern/Southern Regional conference in Baltimore. After serving over a decade as a member of the NCSLA, Jeff ascended to President of the organization in 2018.

To quote the words of NCSLA Past President, Jerry Waters, Sr., “Jeff has always been a person that leads by example, is honest and fair, engages in achieving prescribed goals, and is a leader among his peers.” Through his experience as a public servant with AACO, FED, ATCC, and the NCSLA, Jeff has always shown leadership that is focused on getting the job done via collaboration through people, while providing all whom he served with exceptional service and care.

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 45 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.