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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL ANNOUNCES NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS AND WINNERS OF 2006 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION AWARDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. --- Members of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) elected Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker president for 2006-2007, making history as the Association’s first African-American president for the nearly 100-year-old legal organization.

The Association’s members are the Attorneys General of the 50 states and the chief legal officers of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealtths of Puerto Rico (Secretary of Justice) and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The U.S. Attorney General is an honorary member.

Serving alongside President Baker are Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden as president-elect; Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch as vice president; and Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter as immediate past president.

The announcement was made during NAAG’s 2006 Summer Meeting, held June 27-30 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, where more than 300 participants, including more than 30 Attorneys General and their key staff, gathered to discuss a number of legal issues, including perspectives on social networking and what can be done to protect children, innovations in law enforcement, spyware and approaches to prosecution, public corruption and homeland security.
During his inaugural address, Attorney General Baker took aim at some of the most pressing issues facing our nation. He announced that he would lead the nation's Attorneys General in joint efforts to combat the methamphetamine epidemic affecting countless communities. Other efforts to be spearheaded by the nation's Attorneys General during Attorney General Baker's tenure will include a comprehensive approach to dealing with online sexual predators, as well as a renewed effort to combat identity theft and mortgage fraud.

Attorney General Baker, in announcing his initiative, challenged his fellow Attorneys General "to work across political and regional divides to address critical issues that will better the lives of the citizens of our respective states and territories."

Outgoing NAAG President, Attorney General Carter, delivered his final remarks as NAAG’s president. As President, Attorney General Carter worked to enhance the transparency of NAAG and its public accountability. He also held a national conference in Chicago, Illinois to examine the role of Attorneys General in stamping out public corruption.

The Association also announced its annual award winners.

- Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr., 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: Chief Deputy Attorney General Rick Frank, of California; Assistant Attorney General Shirley Stark, section chief of the Consumer Frauds Bureau in New York; Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Fisher, antitrust section chief of the Antitrust and Civil Medicaid Fraud Division in Texas; and Assistant Attorney General David Huey of Washington.

- The *Laurie Loveland Award* was presented to Deputy Attorney General Brett Delange of Idaho, and Assistant Attorney General Donn Stanley of Iowa. 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, Pennsylvania 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 Briefs Awards
were: Solicitor General Kevin Newsom of Alabama; Solicitor General Gary Feinerman and Assistant Attorneys General Linda Woloshin and Anderson Gansner of Illinois; Solicitor General Caitlin Halligan and Assistant Solicitors General Robert Easton and Richard Dearing; Chief Deputy Attorney General John Knorr of Pennsylvania; and Solicitor General Ted Cruz and Assistant Solicitor General Joel Thollander.

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.

The Association elects its officers yearly, through geographical rotation by region. Election of the four officers - President, President-Elect, Vice President and Immediate Past President - takes place at the annual NAAG Summer Meeting. The President appoints all standing and special committee chairs. Committees are charged with studying all substantive matters within their jurisdiction and recommending policy positions and other matters to the Attorneys General for action by the full Association.

The Executive Committee of the Association is charged with the management of Association operations and yearly approval of a program plan of goals, objectives, and activities to guide its work. The Executive Committee comprises the four NAAG officers, four regional delegates, and three presidential appointees and the chair of the NAAG Mission Foundation, which oversees training programs for the Association.

For more details regarding the 2006 NAAG Summer Meeting, visit www.naag.org.

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