2010 LEGISLATIVE STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

The NCSL Legislative Staff Sections and the Education Staff Network annually present Legislative Staff Achievement Awards to recognize staff excellence in supporting the work of a state legislature and strengthening the legislative institution. Each of the staff sections may make two awards, and each decides the criteria for its awards. The staff chair of the NCSL Standing Committees also may name two award recipients. Examples of accomplishments recognized by the Legislative Staff Achievement Award include, but are not limited to:

- Helping to improve the effectiveness of the legislative institution.
- Supporting the legislative process and the mission of the legislature.
- Exhibiting a high degree of professionalism, competence and integrity in serving the legislature and the public.
- Contributing to the work of the National Conference of State Legislatures.
- Demonstrating expertise in a particular field.
- Contributing to existing knowledge.

LIST OF RECIPIENTS

Standing Committee Staff Chair Awards
Michael P. Adams, Director, Legislative Information Services, Colorado General Assembly
Scott Kaiser, Assistant Secretary of the Senate, Illinois General Assembly

American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS)
McDowell Lee, Secretary of the Senate, Alabama Legislature
Patsy Spaw, Secretary of the Senate, Texas Legislature

Leadership Staff Section (LSS)
Mary Sue Jones, Administrative and Fiscal Assistant, Office of the President Pro Tem, Idaho Senate

Legal Services Staff Section (LSSS)
William Gilkeson, Principal Legislative Analyst and Staff Attorney, Research Division, North Carolina General Assembly
Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney, Wisconsin Legislative Council

Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN)
Helen James, Senior Legislative Attorney, Office of Legal Services, Tennessee General Assembly

Legislative Information and Communications Staff (LINCS)
Gwen Bailey, Deputy Clerk of the Senate, Virginia General Assembly

Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section (LRL)
Anne G Rottmann, Librarian, Legislative Library, Missouri General Assembly

National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO)
William Marx, Chief Fiscal Analyst, House of Representatives, Minnesota Legislature
Taryn Purdy, Principal Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division, Montana Legislature

National Association of Legislative Information Technology (NALIT)
Terri Clark, Assistant Director for Infrastructure, Kansas Legislature
The team of Mark Allred, Richard Amon and Stan Eckersley, Utah Legislature

National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES)
George L. Schroeder, South Carolina Legislative Audit Council (retired)
Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Florida Legislature

National Legislative Services and Security Association (NLSSA)
Lieutenant Ken Scheer, Texas Department of Safety

Research and Committee Staff Section (RACSS)
David Ortbahn, Principal Research Analyst, Legislative Research Council, South Dakota Legislature

STANDING COMMITTEE STAFF CHAIR AWARDS

Michael P. Adams, Director, Legislative Information Services, Colorado General Assembly

This award recognizes Michael Adams for his dedicated service to the Colorado General Assembly and his long-standing participation in NCSL. Michael has worked for the Colorado Legislature since 1990 and is presently the director of the nonpartisan office of Legislative Information Services. Michael's philosophy has always been to cultivate and foster a conscientious respect and appreciation for the entire legislative process and the role of all its stakeholders even when they differ from his own.

Michael has served in numerous leadership roles during his experience with NCSL. He has been an active member of the National Association of Legislative Information Technology since 1996 and served in consecutive leadership roles as secretary and newsletter editor, vice-chair and chair in the early 2000's.

Michael has participated in all NCSL areas available to staff. He has served in member and leadership roles in the standing committees as well as being active on the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee and the NCSL Executive Committee for the past 10 years. He has been a committed and dedicated legislative staffer and it is an honor to recognize him with this award.

STANDING COMMITTEE STAFF CHAIR AWARDS

Scott Kaiser, Assistant Secretary of the Senate, Illinois General Assembly

This award recognizes Scott Kaiser for his dedicated service to the Illinois General Assembly and his participation in NCSL. Scott started working for the legislature in 1988 as an intern and progressively increased his experience and knowledge to rise to his current position. Scott was closely involved with the modernization of the Illinois Senate's voting and records system, and participated in the extensive renovation of the Illinois Senate Chamber.

Scott was elected assistant secretary of the Senate in 2004 and became fully involved in the American Society of Legislative Secretaries. He has served in several leadership roles, including the ASLCS executive committee, vice-chair of the program development committee, and editor of the ALSCS newsletter. He currently serves as the chair of the program development committee.

He has served in the NCSL standing committees since 1990 and is currently vice-chair of the Legislative Effectiveness Committee. He has demonstrated that he possesses the talent to bring professionalism and integrity to the programs of NCSL and I am honored to present him with this award.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LEGISLATIVE CLERKS AND SECRETARIES (ASLCS)

McDowell Lee, Secretary of the Alabama Senate

The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries recognizes McDowell Lee for his outstanding contributions to the Alabama Senate and his distinguished service to ASLCS and NCSL. McDowell is a former legislator who served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1954 to 1962. In 1963 he was elected secretary of the Alabama Senate, and has since served in every leadership role available to Principal ASLCS members, including president, secretary-treasurer, executive committee member and ASLCS committee chair. He is the recipient of the ASLCS Joseph A. Beek Distinguished Service Award and in 2003 received the Special ASLCS Length of Service Honor. He was one of the first members on the Mason's Manual Commission. He has also served as staff chair of NCSL.

Mac is receiving this award because of his professional and hardworking demeanor, his extensive knowledge of the legislative process, and his love for the legislative institution. He has served as a mentor to many ASLCS members and is one of the pillars of ASLCS. He has contributed greatly to the state of Alabama, NCSL and ASLCS.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LEGISLATIVE CLERKS AND SECRETARIES (ASLCS)

Patsy Spaw, Secretary of the Texas Senate

The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries recognizes Patsy Spaw for her outstanding contributions to the Texas Senate and her distinguished service to ASLCS and NCSL. Patsy has served on the Texas Senate staff since 1973, and was elected secretary in 2001. She has served in every leadership role available to Principal ASLCS members, including president, secretary-treasurer, executive committee member and ASLCS committee chair, and is also a current member of the Mason's Manual Commission. She is a member of the NCSL Executive Committee and the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee. She is a respected parliamentarian, and is responsible for initiating many changes in her office that have improved the flow of information, encouraged better communication between departments and ensured that technology can enhance the legislative process. She has also published two volumes on the history of the Texas Senate: *The Texas Senate, Republic to Civil War, 1836-1861* and *The Texas Senate, Civil War to the Eve of Reform, 1861-1889*. Patsy has spent a lifetime of service supporting the legislative process and improving the effectiveness of the legislative institution.

She is recognized with this award for her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm for the Texas Senate, ASLCS and NCSL.

LEADERSHIP STAFF SECTION (LSS)

Mary Sue Jones, Administrative and Fiscal Assistant, Office of the President Pro Tem, Idaho Senate

The Leadership Staff Section recognizes Mary Sue Jones for her contributions to the Idaho Senate and the Leadership Staff Section of NCSL.

Mary Sue Jones began her legislative career as Sergeant-at-Arms in 1992. She quickly advanced in leadership offices, and in 1995 she became fiscal assistant to the president pro tem. By 2006, she added administrative duties to her responsibilities, and is known and respected by all 35 senators for her responsiveness, professionalism and exemplary service. When Mary Sue was nominated for this award there was an outpouring of support from members of LSS, including the following accolades: dedicated, loyal, insightful, personable, focused, diplomatic, never rattled, a solid person.

Mary Sue is a former chair of LSS and has served on almost every committee at one time or another. She is an amazing woman and most deserving of the NCSL Leadership Staff Achievement Award.

LEGAL SERVICES STAFF SECTION (LSSS)

Bill Gilkeson, Principal Legislative Analyst and Staff Attorney, Research Division, North Carolina General Assembly

LSSS recognizes Bill Gilkeson for his significant contributions to the laws of North Carolina in the areas of elections, campaign finance and redistricting. Bill was instrumental in drafting one of the first statutes in the country requiring candidates to take personal responsibility for their television and radio campaign ads. He has served key roles in North Carolina's redistricting efforts in the 1990 and 2000 decades and is acknowledged across the country as an expert in election, campaign finance and redistricting law. Legislative staff around the country often call him with questions about the numerous U.S. Supreme Court rulings on North Carolina's redistricting plans.

Bill has actively participated in NCSL in both LSSS and the Research and Committee Staff Section. He has made many presentations at annual NCSL Summits on redistricting and elections. He served as the vice-chair of the NCSL Redistricting and Elections Committee in 2007 and 2009. He also was a member of the Labor and Economic Development Committee in 2006. Bill's work ethic is exceptional and he is recognized by legislators and colleagues for his high level of competence, professionalism and integrity. Bill will be retiring in October, 2010, after 25 years of service with the North Carolina General Assembly.

LEGAL SERVICES STAFF SECTION (LSSS)

Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney, Wisconsin Legislative Council

LSSS recognizes Richard Sweet for long and valuable service to both NCSL and the Wisconsin Legislature. He has served on the LSSS Executive Committee and as a member of the NCSL Executive Committee and the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee. While Dick has worked on many projects and served in several capacities for NCSL, his most significant contributions include updating the separation-of-powers web site in 2009-2010 and his work on the HITCH (health information technology) Steering Committee. He also serves as one of Wisconsin's statehouse ambassadors.

Dick has been employed by the Wisconsin Legislative Council since 1975. He provides legal research and advice on a nonpartisan and confidential basis to legislators and serves as the staff attorney to legislative committees, primarily in the health law area. He is also assistant director of the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, which oversees the drafting, promulgating and review of all proposed and existing administrative rules.

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STAFF NETWORK (LESN)

Helen James, Senior Legislative Attorney, Office of Legal Services, Tennessee General Assembly

LESN is pleased to recognize Dr. Helen James for excellence in service to the Tennessee General Assembly and to the Legislative Education Staff Network. Helen has dedicated her professional life to public service. She has worked for the legislature since 2002 and before that served for 22 years as a public employee, including teaching at both the secondary and college levels. Helen has served as staff attorney for the House and Senate Education Committees, the K-12 Subcommittee, the Higher Education Subcommittee and the joint Oversight Committee on Education since 2005. She is the authority on the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship Program, having drafted all enabling legislation and nearly all of the statutory revisions since its inception. She is often called upon by her colleagues in neighboring states to provide insight into Tennessee's education policies and procedures. Throughout her tenure, Helen has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, competence and integrity in her service to the Tennessee General Assembly and the public.

Last January, Helen managed the extensive legal work for the General Assembly during the special session on education. Tennessee's comprehensive overhaul of its K-12 and higher education statutes posed a gargantuan challenge. Helen led the legislative legal staff, oversaw all bill drafts, drafted amendments, and otherwise assisted sponsors, Education Committee members and legislative staff. Her efforts contributed to an ambitious and innovative Race to the Top proposal that proved to be a winner.

Helen is actively involved in NCSL and the Education Commission of the States (ECS), having participated in a number of regional and national meetings as a member of LESN. Helen actively participates in the LESN listserv and corresponds with a number of her legislative colleagues on a variety of education issues. She is diligent in responding to queries on topics Tennessee has addressed previously, truly understanding and responding to the needs of her legislative colleagues. LESN applauds Helen!

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS STAFF (LINCS)

Gwen Bailey, Deputy Clerk of the Senate, Virginia General Assembly

LINCS recognizes Gwen Bailey for providing LINCS and NCSL with the same level of outstanding service that she displays as a deputy clerk of the Virginia Senate. An active member of LINCS since 2001, Gwen served as a director; as secretary/editor of the newsletter; The Voice; and as vice chair before becoming the current chair (2009-2010). As chair, she has provided high-quality professional development opportunities for LINCS members while boosting participation in the staff section, most notably by reinstituting and reinvigorating a work group system that promotes greater collaboration and input from members. Gwen is the first staff member of the Virginia General Assembly to serve as LINCS chair.

In addition to her service in LINCS, Gwen has been active in the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, where she has held leadership positions and been the recipient of the ASLCS Legislative Staff Achievement Award.

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARIANS STAFF SECTION (LRL)

Anne G. Rottmann, Librarian, Legislative Library, Missouri General Assembly

LRL honors Anne Rottmann for her professionalism, competence and integrity in serving the Missouri General Assembly and for her continuing contributions to the work of NCSL through her commitment to the LRL. Anne's entire professional career has been with the Missouri Committee on Legislative Research where she has worked since 1978. She became Librarian in March 1981. She and her staff are credited by her director as being wonderful resources for the members and staff of the Missouri General Assembly.

Anne's contributions to LRL have been numerous, long-term and significant. She was chair in 1998-1999, and also has been secretary (1996-97), chair-elect (1997-98), and immediate past chair (1999-2000). During this time, she also served on the NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee, participating in the Task Force on Outreach and External Communication, and the Public Service and Legislative Institution Task Force. She has also served as an LRL regional coordinator and on the committee to produce the Core Collection List for LRL libraries. In related work, she serves on the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board and has served on the Missouri Library Association's legislative committee.

Before the Internet became universally available for research, Anne was in the forefront of the electronic exchange of information through NCSL and LRL. During the 1990s, when NCSL's Legisnet database was the primary means of exchanging state legislative documents, Anne volunteered to index documents for the database, increasing their accessibility. The staff section continues to share acquisitions lists on the LRL Web page based on her original proposal to do so. Anne was also a member of the first staff section listserv and remains a faithful and thorough responder to listserv questions.

LRL honors Anne for her contributions to her legislature, NCSL, legislative librarians throughout the country and the staff sections. She is the model of a legislative librarian.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICES (NALFO)

Bill Marx, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Minnesota House of Representatives

NALFO recognizes Bill Marx for his outstanding dedication to legislative service and persistent efforts to improve fiscal services to the Minnesota Legislature. Bill's work for the House of Representatives spans four decades. His efforts as both a leader in the budget process and as a team player have resulted in continuous improvement to the availability of fiscal information.

Bill staffs the Minnesota House Finance Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, and also manages the activities of the Fiscal Analyst's Office. That includes overseeing numerous department publications that highlight fiscal issues facing the Legislature and monthly updates on state general fund revenues and other fiscal matters.

Bill has been extensively involved with NCSL for more than 20 years. He has been a committee officer in the old Assembly on the Legislature, Assembly on State Issues (ASI), and now the Standing Committees. He was president of NALFO from1999 to 2000 and has been a member of LSCC for five years and a member of the NCSL Executive Committee for three years. Bill continues to serve on the Task Force on State and Local Taxation of Communications and Electronic Commerce.

NALFO salutes Bill Marx's service to his legislature, the state of Minnesota, NCSL and his professional colleagues.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICES (NALFO)

Taryn Purdy, Principal Fiscal Analyst, Montana Legislative Fiscal Division

NALFO recognizes Taryn Purdy for nearly 26 years with the Montana Legislative Fiscal Division and her outstanding contributions in promoting and developing the role of legislative fiscal staff assistance in the legislative process. Taryn has staffed appropriations subcommittees in specific policy areas, the House Appropriations Committee, and currently the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. Her expertise has made her the "go to" person for the philosophy and mechanics of budget development. She is a resource for all policy areas on the expenditure side of the budget equation.

Taryn is a professional, committed to public service and ensuring that the legislature has the resources it needs to do the people's work and make quality, well-informed choices. She has been instrumental is expanding the information resources and developing and performing training to bring new legislators up to speed quickly and to further train existing legislators. Taryn's commitment to educating legislators about the budget process, budget issues and the legislative institution is outstanding.

Throughout her career, Taryn has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, competence and integrity in her service to the Montana General Assembly. NALFO is proud to recognize Taryn for her long and notable career.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NALIT)

The Team of Mark Allred, Richard Amon and Stan Eckersley, Utah Legislature

NALIT recognizes the team of Mark Allred, Richard Amon and Stan Eckersley of the Utah Legislature for their fiscal notes software redesign. Together, these dedicated staff worked across office boundaries to improve significantly the process by which the Utah Legislature develops fiscal notes on proposed legislation. The new system shortened the fiscal notes turn-around deadline from 72 hours to 24 hours. This was not only a fiscal process improvement, but also a boon to legislative effectiveness—speeding the processes by which bills were assigned to committees and allowing bill sponsors to have fiscal notes available before presenting a bill to a standing committee or on the floor.

Mark, Rich and Stan went beyond expectations to redesign the system in the six months before the 2010 General Session, with no additional resources. Because fiscal notes are a vital part of the legislative process, this improvement played a major role in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Legislature. In addition, Mark Allred and other Utah legislative staff, with the support of Utah legislative leadership, have been active participants in NCSL and NALIT, sharing their expertise and experience with other states.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NALIT)

Terri Clark, Assistant Director for Infrastructure, Kansas Legislature

NALIT recognizes Terri Clark for her role in substantially improving the availability of information in the Kansas Legislature. In 2004, the Legislature embarked on a six-year strategic plan with a vision of an integrated, enterprise-wide legislative information and services system. Achieving this vision required an entirely new infrastructure and the implementation of technology the Legislature did not then possess. Terri Clark was delegated the responsibility to shepherd the definition, design and development of this infrastructure.

In the next six years, Terri accumulated a lengthy list of accomplishments, including responsibilities related to installation and implementation of state-of-the-art desktop and secure wireless networks, an IP TV system, new voting systems and boards, an off-site data center capable of restoring the Legislature to full capacity within 30 minutes, and a digital infrastructure for the preservation of electronic permanent and enduring records. That is a partial list. Terri has raised expectations for herself and her colleagues while encouraging the free and open exchange of ideas and solutions. Her accomplishments have helped lead the Kansas Legislature to new and efficient technologies.

Throughout this period, Terri found time to make significant contributions to NALIT. She served as a speaker, moderator and coordinator for numerous NALIT sessions and has also shared her expertise by writing several newsletter articles for the association. Terri is a NALIT director and served as a NALIT committee member. NALIT is pleased to recognize Terri Clark with the 2010 NALIT Legislative Staff Achievement Award.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATION SOCIETY (NLPES)

George L. Schroeder, South Carolina Legislative Audit Council (retired)
NLPES Outstanding Achievement Award

The 2010 NLPES Outstanding Achievement Award is presented to George L. Schroeder for his contributions and service to the field of legislative program evaluation and to NLPES.
George was the director of the South Carolina Legislative Audit Council from November 1975 until his retirement in February 2009. He is a native of Monroe County, Michigan. He holds a BS and MA degree from Eastern Michigan University. George served as an intelligence officer in the United States Army, was associate dean at Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio, and was a special Legislative Assistant to the speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives. In 1973, he was appointed director of the Joint Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly. In November 1975, he was appointed director of the newly formed South Carolina Legislative Audit Council.

George was a founding member of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society. He served on the executive committee during the society's transition from a private organization to an affiliate of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He was a strong advocate for the need for program evaluation. He often spoke at state and national meetings on the role of performance evaluation and how the public and legislatures can use the reports. Additionally, he encouraged his staff to be involved with professional organizations and many served on the NLPES executive committee, participated in peer reviews conducted by NSAA and NLPES, and contribute articles to journals published by the American Evaluation Association.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATION SOCIETY (NLPES)

Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability
NLPES Excellence in Evaluation Award

The NLPES Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability has been chosen to receive the 2010 NLPES Excellence in Evaluation Award. The award judges gave the office high marks for its overall demonstration of its impact, body of work and many contributions to the field of evaluation for the four-year period 2006-2009.

Florida OPPAGA was recognized for the impact of its reports in reducing government costs, increasing revenues and improving services. The office's body of work has encompassed a broad variety of topics and OPPAGA also has unique products, such as an online encyclopedia of state programs, available to help increase transparency for legislators and citizens. The office produces very readable reports and has been on the cutting edge of using electronic media and other methods to communicate evaluation results to legislators and citizens. This allows its message to be understood quickly by a broader audience, increasing the ultimate effectiveness and impact of the office's work. The office has furthered the field of legislative evaluation through its continued participation and leadership in NCSL and NLPES as well as with regional and local evaluation associations.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AND SECURITY ASSOCIATION (NLSSA)

Lieutenant George (Ken) Scheer, Texas Department of Safety, Austin, Texas

Ken Scheer has served as a law enforcement officer at the Texas Capitol for nearly 20 years. Leadership has come and gone but Ken has remained a valuable source of institutional knowledge through many unique situations inside the Capitol over the years. He also played an integral role subduing an active shooter in the Texas Capitol last February which resulted in no injuries or fatalities. Ken has also become an active participant in NLSSA where he serves as the staff section's Region 2 chairman.

RESEARCH AND COMMITTEE STAFF SECTION (RACSS)

David Ortbahn, Principal Research Analyst, Legislative Research Council, South Dakota Legislature

David Ortbahn has dedicated his professional life to serving the South Dakota Legislature in a career that has spanned 30 years. He is the staff person to whom people go when they want the job done right. His exactness for detail and contemplative manner has served many committee chairs. For many years, David has served as the professional staff to the State Affairs committees of both chambers. These major committees, comprised of all legislative leaders, have relied on David for superb professional guidance and assistance.

For decades, David has coordinated and supervised the legislative college intern program. David has guided the recruitment and selection of the interns as well as the educational experience they receive while in the Capitol. His work and example have helped young people at the beginning of their careers realize the value of public service.

David has also generously shared his time and expertise with colleagues from other states, through both the Council of State Governments and the National Conference of State Legislatures. As an officer for the Research and Committee Staff Section, David helped plan and present numerous professional development programs. He was a director on the RACSS Executive Committee for two terms and also served as a regional coordinator for the RACSS newsletter for more than five years. Because of his leadership and diligence, David's region consistently shared the most legislative news with colleagues across the nation.

David's contributions to RACSS and his more than 30 years of distinguished and notable service to the South Dakota Legislature make him truly deserving of recognition. It is with great pride and affection that RACSS presents the 2010 Legislative Staff Achievement Award to David Ortbahn.