



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards

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Photo Included: Executive Committee. From Left: Past President Edward Muhleisen, President Mark Ransford, Secretary/Treasurer Charles Perine. Not pictured: Vice President Douglas "Mack" Smith

### **Board of Directors Elect Executive Committee**

SAN DIEGO, CA (February, 2019) – The Conference Board of Directors elected Mark Ransford to continue to serve as President, Douglas "Mack" Smith to continue as Vice President, and for Charles Perine to continue as Secretary-Treasurer, at the 115th Annual Meeting of The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc. The event was held February 27 – 28, 2019 at The Dana on Mission Bay in San Diego, California.

Mark Ransford previously served as Vice President in 2018 and Secretary-Treasurer in 2017. As the District 4 Director he represents funeral service regulators from Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario. Mr. Ransford was elected to his first term as District 4 Director in 2017, having previously completed the term left by his predecessor in 2015.

Ransford is a 2002 graduate of the University of Michigan with degrees in Business Administration and Psychology. He received his Mortuary Science degree at Wayne State University where he also received a graduate degree in Forensic Investigation. Mr. Ransford serves on the Michigan Board of Examiners in Mortuary Science and is a past president of the Michigan Funeral Directors Association District 7.

Douglas "Mack" Smith previously served as Secretary-Treasurer of The Conference in 2018. As the District 6 Director he represents funeral service regulators from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. He previously filled out his predecessor's term on the Board of Directors from 2013 to 2015, and was elected to his first term in 2015. Mr. Smith also served on The Conference Board of Directors in the late 80's and early 90's, serving as president in 1992.

Mr. Smith has been the Executive Secretary to the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts for almost 38 years. He is a licensed embalmer and funeral director, and is a past president of the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR), past board member of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) and American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE). Mr. Smith is also in his fifth term as mayor of Silver Lake, Kansas.

Charles Perine was elected to The Conference Board of Directors in 2017 to complete his predecessor's term and elected to his first term at the 115th Annual Meeting. Mr. Perine has been the Executive Director for the Alabama Board of Funeral Service since 2013 and previously served as the Associate Executive Director. He previously served The Conference on the Model Practice Act Committee and the Model Practice Act Review Committee. Mr. Perine is a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the state of Alabama.

Edward Muhleisen will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as Past President. Mr. Muhleisen was elected to the Board of Directors in 2014 and served as President of the organization in 2017. He has served on the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors since 2013.

The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards is headquartered in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Founded in 1904, the membership of The Conference is composed of funeral service licensing and regulatory agencies throughout the United States and Canada. For more information on The Conference, visit [www.theconferenceonline.org](http://www.theconferenceonline.org).

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