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**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION**

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**CALIFORNIA CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD RECOGNIZED  
FOR INNOVATION IN REGULATION**

**PHOENIX, AZ – October 7, 2009**

The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) presented the 2009 *Innovation in Regulation Award* to the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) on September 18, 2009, at the association's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Banquet and Installation of Officers at the Union Station Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

Stephen P. Sands, Registrar of the California Contractors State License Board, accepted NASCLA's award on behalf of CSLB at the banquet. NASCLA created this national award to recognize innovation, creativity and excellence used by its members for the purpose of maintaining fair and balanced regulation of the construction industry.

CSLB was awarded for creating an innovative methodology for identifying and prosecuting illegal multi-state contracting operations. The operation was specific to the service and repair industry, and included partnerships with multiple government agencies in order to gain the desired justice.

By assigning a Service and Repair Criminal Investigation Task Force to focus on the problem, CSLB was able to bring a sophisticated, organized and massive fraud ring to justice. This team formed a strategy to hit the defendants at all levels of the organization, which included undercover stings that targeted technicians, officers and qualifying individuals of the numerous entities.

Through endless hours of hard work, ingenuity, dedication and immeasurable teamwork, the task force succeeded in preparing a court-worthy case. The California Attorney General's Office was able to file a compelling unfair completion action and telephone disconnect in Superior Court that sought an injunction, restitution, cost, and civil penalties against the principals and associates. The result was the largest award and action in CSLB's 80-year history.

After months of investigation, the persistence and innovative investigation methods utilized by the task force resulted in a rock-solid case that flushed out the principals. The seemingly impossible goal was not only accomplished but accomplished in a matter of months. Among the highlights of the settlement: full restitution to thousands of victims, recompense for CSLB investigation costs, and civil penalties and a permanent injunction against the principals.

For more information on NASCLA and the *Innovation in Regulation Award*, please visit our website at [www.nascla.org](http://www.nascla.org) or contact the association headquarters at (623) 587-9354.