



N A R U C
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

**NARUC Annual Award for
Promoting International
Cooperation among Utility Regulators and
Development of Professional Regulation**

In Honor of Terry Barnich

Background Information

Organized by the NARUC Committee on International Relations

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1. Foreword



NARUC Annual Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Utility Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation in Honor of Terry Barnich

Excerpt from Secretary Hilary Clinton’s Remarks at Terry Barnich’s Memorial on Sept. 11, 2009: It seems somehow fitting that on this National Day of Mourning, as we remember the thousands of people who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11th, we come together to celebrate one man who saw people who needed help and decided to act, who left a comfortable life to go to a war zone, because he felt called to use his skills to help rebuild a devastated nation, and who serves as an example to the world of how compassion can move any one of us to do extraordinary things on behalf of those who may never know his name but whose lives are better because of his work.

I understand that people often asked him why he worked so hard for such a remote, challenging country. Terry wrote his answer in an op-ed for his hometown paper, and here’s what he said: “To those back home who say the Iraqi experience has made the Iraqis unready or incapable for democracy, I say come work with me. I deal with Iraqis who daily brave physical hardship, violence, and threats of violence, to make their contributions in building a government that deserves the consent of the governed.”

Excerpt from Remarks of former Illinois Commerce Commission Chairman Phil O’Connor on Sept. 11, 2009, Memorial Service: On the day he died, he was doing good for others. He was part of a team inspecting a significant wastewater treatment project in Fallujah. On this past Memorial Day, Terry and his colleagues were continuing the mission of helping the Iraqi people to have the basics of a decent life – clean water and reliable electricity, things we pretty much take for granted in this wonderful country of ours, but which are essential elements of a successful counterinsurgency – whether in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Excerpt from NARUC’s Commissioners Emeritus Tribute on July 21, 2009: Terry Barnich was a great leader in his home state of Illinois and to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. A native of Chicago, Terry served as Chief Legal Counsel to Illinois Governor James R. Thompson for six years. From 1989 to 1992, he also served as Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission and was very active in NARUC as a state utility commissioner. Terry was regarded as one of the telecommunication industry’s most comprehensive reference tools and provided expert testimony on a wide range of regulatory issues as well as authored numerous articles concerning emerging competitive markets.

2. Purpose of the Award

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing the state public service commissioners who regulate the utilities that provide essential services such as energy, telecommunications, water, and transportation. NARUC is an invaluable resource for its members and the regulatory community, providing a venue to set and influence public policy, share best practices, and foster innovative solutions to improve regulation.

In 2011, NARUC established an Annual Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Energy Regulators to acknowledge important contributions made by an outstanding individual from among the NARUC membership, including state commissioners and commission staff, who have dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to furthering regulatory best practices in a global environment.

NARUC's Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Energy Regulators is to honor former Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission (1989 to 1992) Terrence "Terry" Barnich, who was killed on Memorial Day, May 25, 2009, while working as the Deputy Director of the State Department office overseeing U.S. reconstruction projects in Iraq. He was a dedicated public servant and an active NARUC member.

The International Relations Committee (IRC) will select one recipient for the Terry Barnich Annual Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation (Terry Barnich Award), who is exemplary in promoting best practices in the international regulatory arena.

Utility regulatory issues involving electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, and transportation can transcend national boundaries. NARUC, through its international programs, is striving for dialogue and cooperation among the regulators on a global scale. As a regulatory community, NARUC is eager to promote the spread of knowledge and understanding of international regulatory issues that can help us exchange information that is mutually beneficial.

The Terry Barnich Award is an important tool both for promoting and recognizing work of NARUC membership on international regulatory issues and for improving the understanding of good policy-making and regulatory practices.

Each awardee will be presented with a certificate or plaque at the NARUC Annual Meeting and will have their name added to a plaque that will be displayed in the NARUC office in Washington, DC. An announcement about the recipient will be made in NARUC's newsletter and on its website (www.naruc.org/international).

3. Nomination Process

The selection of the Terry Barnich Award winner will commence with a Call for Nominations for the Award, which will be sent out on behalf of the Chair of the International Relations

Committee (IRC) to the entire NARUC membership (U.S. state-level commissioners and/or commission staff and NARUC affiliated organizations).

Any NARUC member may submit their nominations directly to NARUC by filling out the Nomination Form.

A current NARUC member can either nominate himself/herself or nominate someone from among the current NARUC members for this Award. NARUC recommends that the nominating person solicit approval from the potential nominee in advance of submitting the form.

All nominations will remain the property of the Award Selection Committee, created and described in Section 6 below. Information provided on the nomination forms and the selection process will be confidential.

After the review and ranking of the eligible nominations, the Award Selection Committee will present its ranking information and selection of the winning nominee to the IRC for its consideration. The IRC will approve the selection of the winning nominee.

After IRC selects the Award winner, the IRC Chair will inform the awardee and seek their willingness to accept the Terry Barnich Award and travel to Washington, DC to receive the certificate or plaque at the NARUC Winter Committee meeting IRC session.

After the awardee indicates their willingness to accept the award, information about the winning nominee will be made public. Information about the Terry Barnich Award winner will be announced on the NARUC website and may be released to other media outlets after the IRC approves the selection of the Award winner.

4. Eligibility

The nominee can be a commissioner or staff from U.S. state public service commissions. In addition, staff members of NARUC-affiliated organizations based in the United States are eligible. A list of NARUC affiliated organizations is available here: <http://www.naruc.org/affiliates.cfm>

Any state commissioner, staff member, or representative from a U.S.-based NARUC affiliate organization who has been employed in that capacity at any time during the year covered by the award is eligible. For example, the award to be given in November 2024 covers the period from January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Eligibility thus would extend to anyone who was employed at a state commission or affiliate at any time in 2023 or in the first half of 2024.

5. Criteria

The nominee should have:

- A. A history of involvement in international regulatory issues, including a description of significant contributions made
- B. A major contribution or accomplishment in that calendar year that is above and beyond typical expectations of NARUC members' voluntary contributions to promoting international regulatory cooperation
- C. Demonstrated an exceptional dedication of the person's time, energy, and expertise to furthering regulatory best practices in a global environment

Notes on the Selection Criteria

- **RATIONALE** – Significances of the nominee's contribution/outstanding leadership shown throughout the involvement.
- **IMPACT OF NOMINEE'S CONTRIBUTION** – To what extent this nominee's contribution promoted international regulatory best practices.

6. The Award Selection Committee

The Award Selection Committee will have the responsibility to review and rank all the eligible nominations, and based on the ranking, select the winner of the Award.

The Award Selection Committee will be comprised of the following:

- 1) Chair; IRC
- 2) Co-Vice Chair; IRC
- 3) Co-Vice Chair; IRC
- 4) NARUC International Program Staff Representative
- 5) Chair, IR Staff Subcommittee

Before reviewing the nominations, the members of the Award Selection Committee will ensure that there is no potential for perceived conflict of interest with respect to their participation in the Award Selection Committee.

For example, in any given year, if a member of the Award Selection Committee has nominated himself/herself, or if someone else nominates any member of the Award Selection Committee for the award, then, that nominated member of the Award Selection Committee will not be eligible to participate in the Award Selection Committee and an alternate will be selected by the IRC Chairman.

The Chair of the IR Staff Subcommittee will receive the nominations on behalf of the Award Selection Committee. After the nominations come to a close, the Chair of the IR Subcommittee will forward all the nominations received to the members of the Award Selection Committee. The Award Selection Committee will discuss the nominations via conference call and determine the following:

- 1) Which nomination should be deemed as acceptable?

- 2) Which nomination should be rejected, and why (e.g., late submission; incomplete information, in-eligible nominee)?
- 3) Ranking the nominees on a scale of 5 to 1 (5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest), using the selection criteria;
- 4) Selecting the top nominee who received the highest scores.

The IRC Chair, on behalf of the Award Selection Committee, will present a summary of the nomination forms that the Award Selection Committee received and reviewed and the scoring information and recommend the top scoring nominee's name as the Award winner to the IRC for its approval via email.

If there is a tie with respect to the ranking of nominations, meaning two nominations received the same scores from the Award Selection Committee, then the IRC Chair will have a tie breaking vote to decide the winning nomination or may recommend making the award to two recipients.

The decision reached by the IRC with regard to the Award winner will be final and no correspondence of any sort will be entertained either from the nominees or from other NARUC members regarding the final selection. The Award will be given to the recipient in a ceremony at the NARUC Annual Meeting (November).

The IRC Chair will inform the individual selected to receive the Terry Barnich Award prior to the date of the ceremony. This is to facilitate the individual making necessary travel arrangements to attend the Award ceremony.

7. Selection Process: Scoring the Nomination Forms

The IRC Award Selection Committee will “score” the nomination forms they have received in accordance with the criteria mentioned above.

Based on the statements made in the nomination form, the IRC Award Selection Committee will allocate marks based on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 being the highest score and 1 being the lowest.

8. Guidance for Nomination

Nominating an individual for the Terry Barnich Award is straightforward. Before you begin, please read this document carefully and the Selection Criteria and the Nomination process, timeline, and the selection process.

Please ensure that you complete all the contact details accurately in case the Awards team needs to contact the nominator or nominee. **It is strongly recommended that the nominee knows that you have nominated them for the Award and that they have consented to the nomination being made.**

You will need to provide a summary (no more than 250 words) of recent significant contribution (within the calendar year) of the nominee in addressing international regulatory issues and describe how the nominee's time, energy, and expertise helped advance the regulatory cooperation in a global environment. Please keep in mind that the IRC Award Selection Committee will evaluate and rate the candidates based only on the information supplied in the nomination form, so please ensure that any statements made about the nominee are supported with specific examples.

Remember that this information may be used in publications and promotions related to this event.

Please submit your Nomination Form for the Award (via email) to Ms. Erin Hammel, Director of International Programs (ehammel@naruc.org). If you have any questions about the submission procedure or completing the paperwork for your entry, or require further details, please also feel free to contact her by email or by phone (202-898-2210).

The selected candidate would be notified a few weeks before the Awards Ceremony and will receive the Award at a Ceremony during the NARUC Annual meeting (November).

9. Travel subsidy

The selected Awardee will be invited to attend the NARUC Annual Meeting (November) to receive the Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Energy Regulators.

If needed, the recipient of the NARUC's Award can apply for a travel subsidy to receive the Annual NARUC's Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Utility Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation at the NARUC Annual Meeting.