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## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Craig Fontaine, JD, Named As Recipient of PIAA ‘MPL Industry Defender Award’; Presentation to Take Place at 2018 Medical Liability Conference**

Rockville, MD (May 4, 2018) – PIAA, the nation’s leading association representing the medical professional liability (MPL) insurance community, will award Craig Fontaine, JD, with one of the first of PIAA’s “MPL Industry Defender Awards.” The presentation will be held on Thursday, May 17, at the PIAA Medical Liability Conference in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Fontaine is being recognized for his lifetime defense of oral surgeons, dentists, and other healthcare professionals and exceptional support of the MPL industry.

Mr. Fontaine is a founding partner of the firm of Fontaine Alissi, a distinguished MPL defense firm in Hartford, Connecticut. Throughout his career, he has concentrated his practice on civil trial work. Over the last three decades, his professional focus has been devoted to defending hospitals, physicians, oral surgeons, and dentists in MPL claims, and defending individual healthcare professionals in disciplinary and licensure matters involving the Connecticut Department of Health. He has represented PIAA members OMS National Insurance Company and Fortress Insurance Company in some 200 lawsuits over a 28-year period.

He was admitted to the Kansas Bar in 1983, and to the Connecticut Bar in 1984, and he is a member of the Bars of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, United States District Court for the District of Kansas, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. He is a graduate of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and has tried more than 80 cases to verdict, the majority of which have been MPL actions.

Richard E. Anderson, MD, Chair of the PIAA Board and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Doctors Company, said, “Mr. Fontaine has been admirably resolute in his efforts in defending oral surgeons, dentists, and other healthcare providers who have confronted MPL litigation. The PIAA MPL Defender Award acknowledges his commitment and dedication to those who provide care, and also to MPL insurers who provide coverage. We are proud to recognize him for his decades of work with this special achievement award.”

“Craig is a worthy recipient of this award and exemplifies the true spirit of PIAA companies and their mission,” said Bill Passolt, President and CEO, OMSNIC. “Over the years, he has faced numerous challenges in defending OMSNIC/Fortress policyholders, and he has never failed to rise to the occasion, as evidenced by his impressive courtroom record. We are indebted to him for his hard work, perseverance, and support in the defense of healthcare professionals.”

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*PIAA is the leading international association representing medical professional liability insurance companies, risk retention groups, captives, trusts, and other entities with a commitment to the quality delivery of healthcare. PIAA members insure more than 2 million healthcare professionals around the world—doctors, dentists, nurses and nurse practitioners, and other healthcare providers—including more than two-thirds of America’s private practicing physicians. PIAA members also insure more than 3,000 hospitals and 5,000 medical facilities.*