



About Katie O'Meara Orrico, Esq.

Katie O. Orrico, Esq., is the director of the Washington Office of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), and has represented organized neurosurgery before the U.S. Congress and federal agencies since 1985. A native Washingtonian, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, with honors, from The Catholic University of America in 1985. Upon graduation, she worked as a legislative assistant for CLP Associates, a small health advocacy firm, where she represented the AANS and CNS, among other health care clients. While working for CLP Associates, Katie pursued her law degree at night, and in 1991 earned her Juris Doctor degree from the George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School. In 1997, she was selected to become the director of the AANS and CNS Washington Office, upon the establishment of a full-time office. She is licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In her capacity as the AANS/CNS Washington Representative, Ms. Orrico works closely with other medical societies on several legislative coalitions. She is one of the founding members of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine, which represents 15 national medical specialty societies with over 100,000 physician members. The Alliance was formed in 2001 to give the specialty medicine a collective voice in Washington, DC and Ms. Orrico is a member of the Alliance's leadership. She is also the vice-chair of the Health Coalition on Liability and Access, a coalition dedicated to enacting federal medical liability reform legislation. In 2008, Ms. Orrico was invited to serve as a founding member of the steering committee of the Partnership to Improve Patient Care, an initiative whose mission is to raise awareness about the value of well-designed comparative effectiveness research. In 2012, Ms. Orrico helped establish the Physician Clinical Registry Coalition, which focuses on legislative and regulatory policy issues affecting clinical data registries. Most recently, in 2015, she was invited to participate on the AMA-led MACRA Task Force, MIPS Workgroup and Medicare Payment Workgroup. Ms. Orrico is also a leader in the Regulatory Relief Coalition, which is focused on reforming current prior authorization processes.

Ms. Orrico also serves as the AANS/CNS staff liaison to a number of health care organizations, including: American College of Surgeons/Surgical Coalition, American Medical Association (AMA), Coalition of Patient Centered Imaging, GME Advocacy Coalition and the Medical Device Coalition.

She is frequently invited to speak on such topics as Medicare reimbursement, quality improvement, medical liability reform, graduate medical education and the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). Ms. Orrico is also a regular contributor to several neurosurgical publications, and is a member of the editorial boards of the *AANS Neurosurgeon*,

Congress Quarterly and Neurosurgery Blog.

In recognition of her contributions to organized neurosurgery, in 2003, Ms. Orrico was awarded the CNS' Distinguished Service Award and in 2010 she received the AANS' Distinguished Service Award. In 2012, the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery bestowed on Ms. Orrico an honorary membership, which is reserved for those individuals for their importance to the development of the specialty of Pediatric Neurosurgery. In 2016, the AANS/CNS Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS) bestowed upon her the Leibrock Lifetime Achievement Award, given to recognize individuals who have dedicated themselves to the grass roots effort that is represented by the CSNS. Later that same year, Ms. Orrico received the AMA's Medical Executive Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors a medical association executive who has contributed substantially to the goals and ideals of the medical profession. Most recently, in 2019, she received the California Association of Neurological Surgeons' George Ablin, MD Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Ms. Orrico is a member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Health Lawyers Association, American Society of Medical Association Counsel and Virginia Bar Association.