



**Independent
Insurance
Agents of Texas**

Media contacts:	Linda Timmons , Communications Director	ltimm@iiat.org	512.476.6281
	David VanDelinder , IIAT Executive Director	dvand@iiat.org	512.476.6281

Thursday, July 07, 2011

Patrick Watkins of Austin to Serve as President-Elect of the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas

AUSTIN, TX — The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) elected Patrick Watkins, president of Watkins Insurance Group, to serve as president-elect for 2011-2012 during IIAT's 114th Annual Conference and Trade Show in Houston. With 1,800 member agencies in 225 counties, IIAT is the state's largest association of independent insurance agents and professionals. Watkins' term begins Sept. 1.

In addition to serving on IIAT's Board of Directors, Watkins has served on numerous IIAT advisory councils including the Young Agent and Trusted Choice advisory councils. He was named the IIAT Young Agent of the Year in 2005. Watkins holds the Certified Insurance Counselor and Certified Risk Manager professional designations and is past president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Austin.

In the local community, he served as the 2008 president of the Austin Chapter of the Community Associations Institute and currently serves on the board of the Austin Symphony and as an advisory board member of Caritas. Watkins joined Watkins Insurance Group in 1994 after growing up around his family's insurance business. Over the last seventeen years, the agency has grown from a staff of four to nearly 100 full-time employees in seven Texas locations.

* * *

About IIAT

The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) is the nation's largest state association of Trusted Choice® agencies. IIAT represents approximately 1,800 agencies and more than 16,000 agents and insurance professionals. Trusted Choice® independent agents represent multiple insurance companies. Since they are not employees of any single insurance company, they are advocates for insurance consumers helping them comparison shop for cost-effective and customized coverage. IIAT is also affiliated with the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and works with legislative, regulatory and judicial bodies in Texas on behalf of independent insurance agents across the state. More information on IIAT can be found online at iiat.org.

-30-