



## The Society for Standards Professionals

### NEWS RELEASE

#### **James M. Shannon to Keynote at 66th Annual SES Conference August 7 – 10, 2017, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois**

Since January, 2017 James M. Shannon has been President of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the world's leading producer of International Standards for electrotechnology. Before that he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) from 2002 until 2014. NFPA is the leading advocate of fire prevention and developer of fire safety standards and the National Electrical Code. From 1991 until assuming the presidency in 2002 Mr. Shannon served as NFPA's Senior Vice President and General Counsel.



During his tenure as NFPA president, Mr. Shannon launched a successful national effort to require that all cigarettes sold in the U.S. be "fire safe" and a national campaign that is still underway advocating the use of fire sprinklers in all new one and two family homes. He devised NFPA's "free access" policy that made NFPA the first major standards developer to provide the public free access online to all of its codes and standards.

Prior to joining NFPA Mr. Shannon was elected Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a position he held from 1987 until 1991. As Massachusetts Attorney General Mr. Shannon was recognized as a strong advocate of consumer rights and civil rights. He personally argued cases before the United States Supreme Court, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the Circuit Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He also served as Chair of the Antitrust Committee of the National Association of Attorneys General.

From 1985 until 1987 Mr. Shannon was a Senior Partner in the Boston office of Hale & Dorr (now WilmerHale).

Mr. Shannon was elected to the United States House of Representatives representing the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts in 1978 and, at 26, was the youngest member of the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress. As a freshman he was appointed to the Ways and Means Committee where he worked on major tax legislation and was actively involved in legislative efforts to strengthen Social Security. He was re-elected in 1980 and 1982, and left Congress after an unsuccessful campaign for the Senate in 1984. Mr. Shannon serves on the board of Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Mr. Shannon received his B.A. from Johns Hopkins University and his J.D. from George Washington University Law School.

SES President, Richard Forselius, said, "SES continues to be able to provide the preeminent leaders in standards and conformity assessment as keynote presenters at our annual conference. This year we are excited to welcome our good friend James J. Shannon as our keynote speaker for our 66th annual conference. Now serving as president of IEC, Jim has tremendous experience and expertise, including service as a US representative and as Massachusetts Attorney General. Plus having served both as NFPA's President and CEO, and SVP and General Counsel, Jim will present to us inspiring personal advice.

We also will have an exceptional slate of program speakers and moderators at our annual conference. This will allow SES to continue to further our key objective of educating conference attendees about emerging standards activities and the standards profession. We have an outstanding conference planned this year in Chicago, please join me and Jim Shannon this August; confirm your attendance early for the conference!"

### **About SES**

SES - The Society for Standards Professionals was founded in 1947 as the Standards Engineering Society, a not-for-profit professional membership society dedicated to furthering the knowledge and use of standards and standardization. SES is unique in that it is the only organization in North America committed exclusively to this effort. SES provides a neutral networking forum where standards users and developers can come together to address mutual issues, opportunities, and interests in ways that work to the benefit of everyone involved with, or affected by, standards. The Society's worldwide membership includes standards developers, users, managers, and information specialists from industry, government, standards developing organizations, trade associations, and academia. SES is the member body for the United States and Canada in the International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN) and accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

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## SES PUBLICATIONS AND STANDARDS

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**ANSI/SES 1:2013, *Recommended Practice for Designation and Organization of Standards***

**SES 2:2011, *Model Procedure for the Development of Standards***

**SES 3:2016, *Recommended Practice for Joint Standards Development***

***Standards Engineering* - The bimonthly journal of SES**

***A Guide To Standards***

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