Episode 1: Introducing the CLEAR Podcast
June 12, 2018

Line Dempsey: Hello, welcome! We're excited to officially launch Regulation Matters: A CLEAR conversation, the podcast of the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation. I'm your host, Line Dempsey. For those of you who do not know me, I'm a senior investigator with the North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners, and I'm also the current chair of the National Certified Investigator Training Committee with CLEAR. I'm joined today by Stephanie Thompson, our content coordinator, and Adam Parfitt, Executive Director of CLEAR. Welcome.

Adam Parfitt: Thank you, Line. Good to be with you.

Stephanie Thompson: Glad to be here.

Line: Thank you. And for our listeners who aren't yet familiar with CLEAR, we'd like to give you an introduction to the organization. Let me read the official statement: The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation is the premier international resource for professional regulation stakeholders. CLEAR promotes regulatory excellence through conferences, educational programs, webinars, seminars, and symposia. The organization provides networking opportunities, publications, and research services for those involved with or affected by professional and occupational regulation. As a neutral form to encourage and provide for the sharing of best practices, CLEAR serves and supports the international regulatory community and its vital contribution to public protection. CLEAR has defined its own educator role as proactively identifying critical issues, providing a dynamic interactive forum for exploration of these issues, and collecting and disseminating relevant information on them. There are four core areas of substantive inquiry that CLEAR supports through its annual conference and other venues: compliance and discipline; testing and examination issues; entry to practice issues; and administration, legislation and policy. So that's a good description of CLEAR and its mission, but really what does that mean? For professional regulation stakeholders, Adam, what is CLEAR?

Adam: Sure. The key points from that description that I'd want to highlight today would be firstly that CLEAR is international. Secondly, that it's about the sharing of best practices. And thirdly, that it provides significant networking opportunities. And those elements really combine

to benefit CLEAR's members and the broader professional regulatory community. CLEAR is a place where members can come together for one common purpose, and that's to achieve excellence in regulation and public protection. With membership spanning four continents, the diversity of jurisdictions, professions, and regulatory models represented is significant, and that brings a real richness to the organization and allows the members and stakeholders to connect with regulatory colleagues who are facing many of the same challenges in different jurisdictions. CLEAR's educational programs and networking opportunities allow members to share solutions to those challenges and to take that practical knowledge that's gained back to their own agencies. We hear time and again from members about how the connections they've made through CLEAR provide them with ideas that they can immediately employ in their own organizations and implement to make those regulatory entities and the policies under which they operate even stronger. Through the work of CLEAR's various committees, we highlight the trends in regulation and we develop educational resources that support the broad work of regulatory bodies.

Line: Now, you mentioned educational resources. Historically CLEAR offers a lot of educational opportunities - from our annual educational conference, which I've been going to for 14 years, which covers a broad range of content areas, to training for regulatory board members, training for investigators and inspectors, which of course I've gone through all that, training for those in leadership roles in regulatory organizations. A lot of attendees benefit from those offerings in person. I can certainly say that with great emphasis. Some of the best conversations I've had have been face-to-face and roundtable discussions that we've offered. But you also offer online webinars where we've been able to collaborate. How does the podcast fit in? What was the motivation for developing a CLEAR podcast?

Adam: Absolutely. So, it was really about keeping those conversations going. CLEAR wants to keep current and relevant for its stakeholders, both in terms of content, but also in the delivery modes it employs. So we want the podcast to be an easy way for everyone to access the content on their own schedule when and where it's most convenient for them. The podcast is intended to help stakeholders stay current on new developments and hear diverse perspectives on a broad range of professional regulation topics. So as we delve into our podcast series, episodes will include interviews with expert guests; panel discussions for a pro and con debate on an issue; or tie-in discussions related to conference session content; and instructional how-to topics related to administration, investigations, and licensure testing. And each episode will be about 15 to 20 minutes each – so, easy to listen to. So the first group of episodes we lined up, we'll be speaking with the investigators who received the CLEAR Investigative Excellence Awards in 2017. They'll be sharing some of the details of the cases and the innovative techniques they employed to be so successful. We'll be speaking with someone from the National Conference of State Legislatures with an update on the Occupational Licensing Policy Learning Consortium. The College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia will share research on the public's perception of continuing competence and how regulators can use this research for policy making. We'll also hear about licensing reform efforts to reduce barriers, specifically from the perspective of the

cosmetology industry. And we're going to have some mini sessions related to content on offer at this year's annual conference, which will take place in September in Philadelphia. From the Compliance and Discipline track, we'll hear about legislative changes and reports that are focusing on the critical topic of sexual abuse. From the Entry to Practice track, we'll hear about various approaches to license portability and addressing concerns about licensing barriers while still ensuring public protection during a disaster. And from the Administration, Legislation and Policy track, we'll hear about health workforce data collection.

Line: Well, those are pretty exciting topics and I'm very happy to be a part of this. But I have to ask: Who came up with the title Regulation Matters: a CLEAR conversation? I love it! I know Stephanie hangs in the back; she's our content coordinator and usually sets up everything for us. Did you have a part in that? Adam, how did this come about?

Adam: Well, certainly, Stephanie had some input into this as well. It was a staff idea, but we wanted something really to reflect the fact that regulation does matter, but also that there are a broad range of topics that we can speak about as part of this general conversation around promoting regulatory excellence. So we hope it's a great resource. We look forward to the series and really welcome input as we move this forward.

Line: Well, it certainly sounds like we're gonna have a great line-up of topics. I'm excited to be a part of that. I think a little bit of something for everyone. So listeners can subscribe to the podcast through Podbean, by downloading the Podbean app, through iTunes, also through Spotify. So there are several ways for you to find us and be notified every time we release a new episode, which we're planning to do on a monthly basis. Can listeners share any type of feedback?

Adam: Absolutely. So, the Podbean app has feedback features, so you can provide comments directly within the app when you're listening, and then you can mark your favorite episode. We'd love to have listener feedback so we can develop episodes on topics of most interest to CLEAR's stakeholders. And of course, listeners can always email us directly with feedback to webinars@clearhq.org.

Line: This is an exciting new initiative for CLEAR, and I remember talking about it with you and Stephanie last year, in Denver, and I'm so excited to be the host for this. I'm certainly glad to be a part of it. So thank you so much, Adam and Stephanie, for being with us today.

Adam: It's a pleasure, Line. Thank you for your part in this.

Line: Thank you for those that have also listened in today. Welcome! We hope we have piqued your interest with this introduction and that you will continue to join us over the coming months as we talk to award-winning investigative teams and world-renowned speakers on regulation issues that we all may face and learn from. We have a broad range of topics and we

encourage you to subscribe, as the next issue might be just exactly what you were looking for. Our first official podcast will be very soon, so look for more information at our website at www.clearhq.org for additional resources. I'm Line Dempsey, and I hope to be speaking to you again soon.

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