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CHI's Legal Services Group Wins Top Honors from National Organization *Group Named "Top Legal Department" by First Chair*

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. – Sept. 1, 2016 – The Legal Services Group of Catholic Health Initiatives, the nation's third-largest nonprofit health system, has been named "top legal department" by First Chair, an organization that recognizes premier attorneys working in both private practice and as in-house counsel across the country.

CHI's Legal Services Group -- led by Mitch Melfi, executive vice president, corporate affairs and chief legal officer; and Elaine Lisko, senior vice president and general counsel -- was honored for innovations and contributions to the profession in First Chair's inaugural recognition of the nation's top lawyers.

In addition to the organization's prestigious award, Mike Waters, division vice president and regional general counsel for CHI Health Nebraska, was one of about 40 individuals named as a "top corporate counsel" across the nation.

The awards were presented during a ceremony Aug. 31 in Chicago.

ABOUT CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES: Catholic Health Initiatives, a nonprofit, faith-based health system formed in 1996 through the consolidation of four Catholic health systems, expresses its mission each day by creating and nurturing healthy communities in the hundreds of sites across the nation where we provide care. The nation's third-largest nonprofit health system, Englewood, Colorado-based CHI operates in 18 states and comprises 103 hospitals, including four academic health centers and major teaching hospitals as well as 30 critical-access facilities; community health-services organizations; accredited nursing colleges; home-health agencies; living communities; and other facilities and services that span the inpatient and outpatient continuum of care. In fiscal year 2015, CHI provided almost \$970 million in charity care and community benefit – an 8% increase over the previous year -- for programs and services for the poor, free clinics, education and research. Charity care and community benefit totaled more than \$1.6 billion with the inclusion of the unpaid costs of Medicare. The health system, which generated operating revenues of \$15.2 billion in fiscal year 2015, has total assets of approximately \$23 billion. Learn more at www.catholichealthinitiatives.org.