

**Twentieth Session  
New York, 17 – 28 January 2000**

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**Item 18  
of the Provisional Agenda**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

**Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations  
Resolutions on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

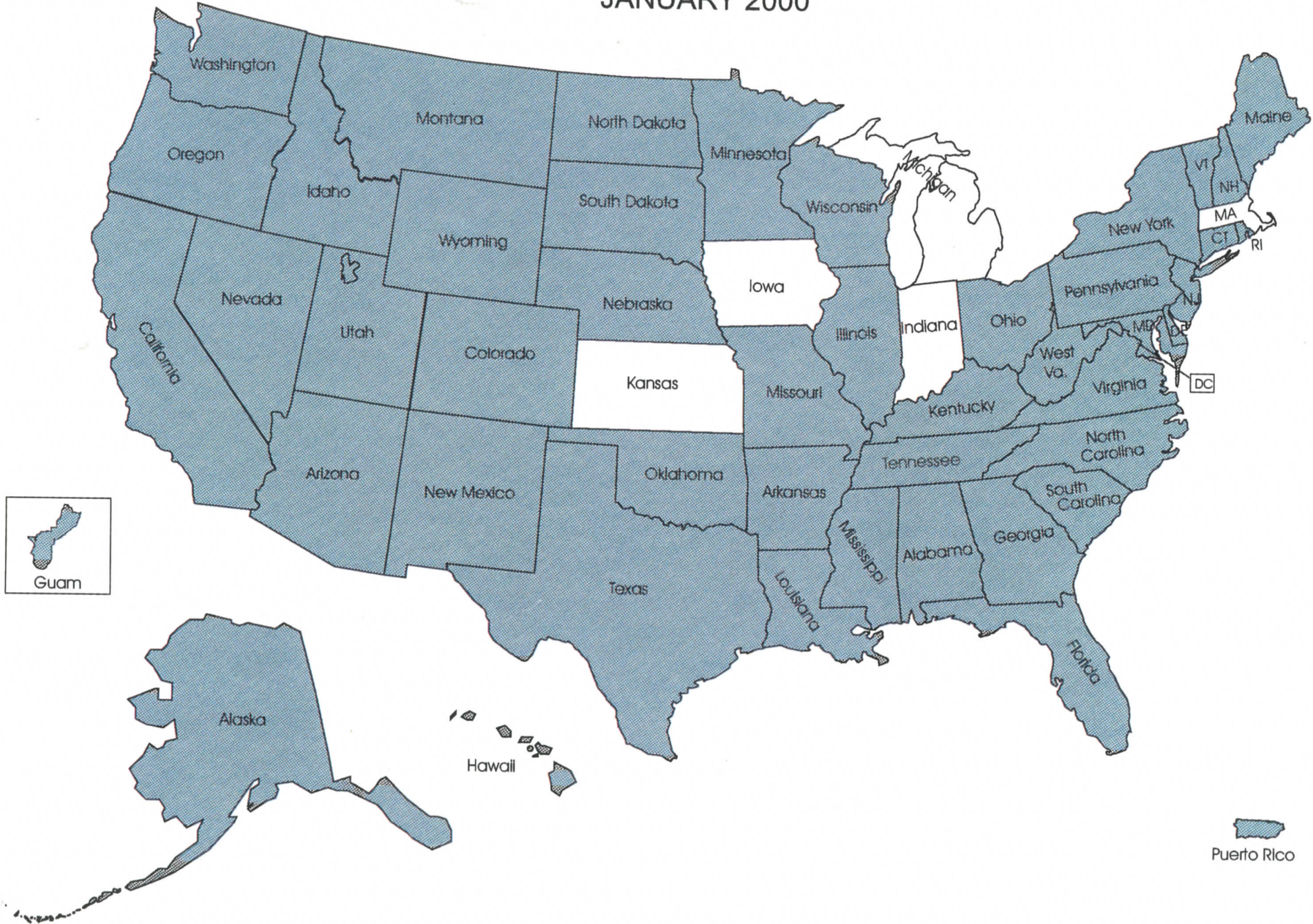
**State Names Authorities of the United States of America**

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**Roger L. Payne (USA)**

The mission of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as prescribed by law is to standardize geographical nomenclature and orthography throughout the Federal government. Of paramount importance to the Federal government in the standardization process is local use and acceptance. Therefore, in order to achieve a desired level of local recommendation for geographical names in the United States, the Federal government encourages the formation of committees to make recommendations on behalf of the local and State governments. Since the last meeting of this group of experts, official authorities for geographical names activity have been formed in the States of Arkansas, West Virginia, and Tennessee as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Territory of Guam bringing the total number of authorities to 46. In the six States, one Commonwealth, and two Territories presently without names authorities, the Federal Board works directly with local governments. Should two or more local governments experience an impasse, the Governor's Office is asked to make a recommendation.

UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
ASSOCIATED STATE, COMMONWEALTH, AND TERRITORY NAMES AUTHORITIES  
JANUARY 2000



Guam

Puerto Rico