



## North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys

3700 National Drive, Ste 212  
Raleigh, NC 27612  
919-239-4463 • info@ncada.org

### Charles E. Burgin Presented 2010 J. Robert Elster Award for Professional Excellence

Charles E. Burgin has been awarded the J. Robert Elster Award for Professional Excellence for 2010 by the NC Association of Defense Attorneys (NCADA).

This Award, renamed in 2007 in honor and recognition of J. Robert Elster, a founding member and second president of the NCADA, recognizes NCADA members who exemplify the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and ethics and conducts him or herself in a civil, courteous manner with all persons. The recipient must exemplify sustained excellent individual service to individual and corporate defendants in civil litigation, to the Bar and to the community.

This year's recipient, Charles E. Burgin, began his law practice in McDowell County after a clerkship with Federal Judge J. Braxton Craven, Jr., in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He served a two year term as solicitor of the McDowell County Criminal Court and then began the private practice of law with E.P. "Sandy" Dameron. Today the firm is Dameron, Burgin, Parker & Jackson, P.A. He completed his undergraduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1961 and received his Juris Doctorate at Duke University School of Law in 1964.



**Burgin Award Presented by  
President Bonnie J. Refinski-  
Knight**

Burgin is a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court, having argued there and won a case of national importance in the area of public employment and constitutional law (*Bishop v. Wood*). He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a former State Chair of the College. He is also a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers and the American Bar Foundation, and is listed in Best Lawyers In America, North Carolina's Super Lawyers and North Carolina's Legal Elite.

Burgin is a Charter member of the NCADA and served on its Board of Directors from 1988 to 1991. Burgin is a former president of the North Carolina Bar Association and, during his term as president in 1993-1994, he established the section on Constitutional Rights and Responsibilities.

Burgin has been active in his community, serving on the Board of Trustees of South Mountain Children's Home, the Board of Directors of the County Recreation Commission, Chairman of a Strategic

Planning Initiative for McDowell County called "Project Outlook", and as an organizer and Past Chairman of the McDowell Committee of One Hundred, an industry recruiting organization. In addition, he has also served as the City Attorney for Marion, the Attorney for the McDowell County Board of Education, and as Chairman of the Democratic Party. He has also served as a member of the board of his local bank, several corporations, and his local hospital.

Burgin is married to the former Bunnie Salsbury of Morganton, North Carolina, and they live in the area of McDowell County where he grew up as a youngster. They have two children, Ellen and Lucy, and three grandchildren.

The NCADA is pleased to recognize Charles E. Burgin as the 2010 recipient of the J. Robert Elster Award for Professional Excellence.