

News Release

North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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RE: OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS INDUCTED AT 31st ANNUAL MEETING

The [North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys](#) (NCADA) held its 31st Annual Meeting at the Westin Resort, Hilton Head, South Carolina during the weekend of June 12-15, 2008. Officers and board of directors for the 2008-2009 year took office at the close of the Annual Meeting on June 15, 2008.

Brian O. Beverly, a partner with [Young Moore & Henderson, P.A.](#) in Raleigh, is the 31st president of the NC Association of Defense Attorneys. His practice areas include transportation liability, premises liability, complex insurance coverage analysis, nursing home and medical negligence litigation. Beverly received his J.D. in 1995 from North Carolina Central University, and is licensed to practice in North Carolina, the U.S. District Courts in Eastern, Middle and Western North Carolina and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Kenneth Kyre, Jr. is immediate past president having served during the 2007-2008 year. Kyre is a partner in the Greensboro law firm of [Pinto Coates Kyre & Brown, PLLC](#). Kyre's practice areas include product liability, commercial and construction litigation. A significant amount of his cases currently involve litigation arising from alleged negligence of companies and their employees. Kyre received his J.D. from Wake Forest University in 1977. He practices in both state and federal courts in North Carolina.

David N. Allen is president-elect. Allen is a partner in the Charlotte office of [Parker Poe](#)

[Adams & Bernstein, LLP](#). Allen has extensive experience in both state and federal courts. He represents clients including insurance companies, physicians and hospitals, manufacturing companies and chemical companies. Allen is a 1980 graduate of the University of North Carolina, and he also serves as a State Bar Councilor for the 26th Judicial District.

Bonnie Refinski-Knight has been elected as Executive Vice President after having served two years as treasurer and a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Refinski-Knight is a partner with [Harris Creech Ward & Blackerby, P.A.](#) in New Bern. Refinski-Knight's practice concentration is in the defense of liability claims against physicians, nurses and hospitals. Refinski-Knight received her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1990.

Christopher G. Smith will serve a second year as secretary. Smith is a partner with the Raleigh law firm of [Smith Anderson Blount Mitchell Dorsett & Jernigan, LLP](#). Smith has significant experience in business disputes, trade secrets, environmental and toxic tort litigation, pharmaceutical development litigation, products liability litigation, preliminary injunctions and temporary restraining orders, and with matters designated exceptional and complex, and assigned to the North Carolina Business Court. Smith received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992.

Patricia P. Kerner has been elected to serve a two-year term as treasurer. Kerner is completing a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Kerner is a partner in the Raleigh office of [Troutman Sanders, LLP](#) practicing primarily in the areas of civil litigation and administrative law, with emphasis on the defense of attorney malpractice claims, products liability and personal injury actions, and insurance coverage disputes. Kerner received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina in 1985.

Elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors are:

Mark E. Anderson is a partner with [McGuireWoods, LLP](#) practicing in the firm's Raleigh office. Anderson represents commercial entities involved in litigated matters, as well as health care practitioners and institutions, pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers. Anderson is a past chair of the NCADA's Medical Malpractice section and will co-chair the NCADA's Legislative Committee.

Jonathan A. Berkelhammer is a partner with [Smith Moore, LLP](#) practicing in the firm's Greensboro office. Berkelhammer's litigation practice focus is in commercial, intellectual property, product liability and catastrophic injury, insurance and antitrust and trade regulation. Berkelhammer is a past chair of the NCADA's commercial litigation section.

Mary M. Dillon is a partner with [Ellis & Winters, LLP](#) of Cary. Dillon practices in the area of civil litigation, focusing primarily on products liability litigation, medical malpractice defense, and commercial litigation. Dillon is a past chair of the NCADA's Products Liability section and is currently serving as chair of the Communications committee.

Terry D. Horne is the managing partner of [Stiles Byrum and Horne, LLP](#) in Charlotte. Horne's litigation practice includes general liability, municipal and police liability, insurance litigation and workers' compensation.

Donna R. Rutala is a partner with [Young Moore & Henderson, PA](#) in Raleigh. Her practice is concentrated primarily in the areas of medical malpractice defense litigation and health law. Rutala is a past chair of the NCADA's Medical Malpractice section and has just completed a one-year term on the Board of Directors.

Elected to serve a one-year ex-officio term on the Board of Directors are:

J. A. Gardner, III, [Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo, LLP](#) of Charlotte will serve

as the past president representative. Gardner served as president in 1993-1994. **Michael P. Thomas**, [Patrick Harper & Dixon](#) of Hickory will serve as chair of the NCADA's Young Lawyers Committee. **Michelle May**, [Dickey McCamey & Chilcote, PC](#) of Charlotte will serve a second year as chair of the NCADA's Paralegal Division. Representing DRI are **Leslie O'Toole**, [Ellis & Winters, LLP](#), as State Representative and **John S. Willardson**, [Willardson Lipscomb & Miller, LLP](#), as Regional Director. Both O'Toole and Willardson are past presidents of the NCADA.

Currently serving terms on the NCADA's Board of Directors are: **M. Greg Crumpler**, [Battle Winslow Scott & Wiley, P.A.](#), Rocky Mount; **Mark C. Kurdys**, [Roberts & Stevens, P.A.](#), Asheville; **Robert A. Meynardie**, [Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP](#), Raleigh; **Jacqueline A. Newton**, [Ennis Newton & Baynard, P.A.](#), Wrightsville Beach; **E. Fitzgerald Parnell, III**, [Poyner & Spruill, LLP](#), Charlotte; **J. Chad Bomar**, [Wilson & Coffey, LLP](#), Winston-Salem; **Edward F. Hennessey, IV**, [Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson, PA](#), Charlotte; **Erica B. Lewis**, [Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo, LLP](#), Wilmington; **William W. Pollock**, [Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog, LLP](#), Raleigh; and **S. Mujeeb Shah-Kahn**, Senior Assistant Attorney, [City of Charlotte](#).

Retiring from the Board of Directors after serving a three-year term are: **A. Todd Brown**, [Hunton & Williams, LLP](#), Charlotte; **George W. Dennis III**, [Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham, LLP](#), Raleigh; **William F. Lipscomb**, [Willardson Lipscomb & Miller, LLP](#), Wilkesboro; **Patricia P. Kerner**, [Troutman Sanders, LLP](#), Raleigh.

The North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys brings together civil trial attorneys to promote the exchange of information, ideas, and litigation techniques, and to strengthen the practice, improve the skills, and enhance the knowledge of lawyers defending individuals and

businesses in North Carolina. The NCADA represents over 1000 civil litigation attorneys and paralegals in North Carolina. For more information about the N.C. Association of Defense Attorneys, please contact the Association office at (919) 657-1576 or visit www.ncada.org.

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