



NACDL NEWSRELEASE

Contact: Jack King
Public Affairs
(202) 872-8600 x228
jack@nacdl.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steven Benjamin Elected Treasurer of Nation's Largest Criminal Defense Bar

Washington, DC, (Aug. 4, 2008) – Virginia attorney Steven D. Benjamin was sworn in as the 51st Treasurer of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), the nation's largest criminal bar association, at its 50th Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI, Aug. 2. Benjamin had previously served on the Association's Executive Committee as NACDL Secretary and on the Board of Directors. He is a past president of the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, an NACDL state affiliate.

Benjamin is an attorney in private practice with the Richmond, Virginia firm of Benjamin & DesPortes. He is a member of the Virginia Board of Forensic Science and the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission. He serves as Special Counsel to the Virginia Senate Courts of Justice Committee and to the Virginia State Crime Commission. He is a frequent lecturer on criminal justice and defense issues, giving presentations nationally and throughout Virginia, including presentations to NACDL, the American Bar Association, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Virginia Commonwealth's Attorneys' Institute and the Judicial Conference of Virginia.

In 1996, Mr. Benjamin was counsel in Virginia's landmark case requiring the appointment of forensic experts for indigent defense. In 1998, he argued through the trial courts and on appeal that Virginia's mandatory fee caps on compensation for court-appointed attorneys deprived indigent defendants of adequate representation. In 2001, he won the exoneration and release of Jeff Cox, a man who served 11 years of a life sentence for a crime he did not commit. In 2003, he argued for the free speech rights of public housing residents in a trespassing case in the United States Supreme Court. In 2003, he was presented the Virginia State Bar's Lewis F. Powell Pro Bono Award in recognition of his years of indigent defense and efforts toward indigent defense reform. In 2004, he was elected a Fellow to the American Board of Criminal Lawyers.

The Washington, D.C.-based National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is the preeminent organization in the United States advancing the mission of the nation's criminal defense lawyers to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of crime or wrongdoing. A professional bar association founded in 1958, NACDL's 13,000 direct members — and 90 state, local and international affiliate organizations with another 35,000 members — include private criminal defense lawyers, public defenders, active-duty and reserve military defense counsel, law professors and judges committed to preserving fairness within America's criminal justice system. Steven Benjamin may be reached at (804) 788-4444.

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

*1660 L St., N.W., 12th Fl, Washington, D.C. 20036 * Tel. 202-872-8600 * Fax 202-872-8690*