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Contact: Barbara Fritsche, Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C., 217-245-6177, [bfritsche@rblawyers.net](mailto:bfritsche@rblawyers.net)  
Sandra J. Wulf, CAE, IOM, IDC Executive Director, 217-585-0991, [idc@iadtc.org](mailto:idc@iadtc.org)

### **Statewide Defense Association Honors Jacksonville Attorney Barbara Fritsche**

Chicago, IL - The Illinois Association of Defense Trial Council (IDC) has named Jacksonville Attorney Barbara Fritsche as its 2009 Distinguished Member. Fritsche was nominated by her peers for her outstanding contributions to the statewide attorney association, which works to promote fairness in the Illinois civil justice system. The IDC represents nearly 1,000 defense attorneys and is the voice of the defense bar in Illinois.

Fritsche's service as a director of the IDC and as a leader of the association's Membership Task Force was recognized by her colleagues with the Distinguished Member Award at the association's annual meeting held in Chicago. In naming Fritsche as the 2009 award recipient, the IDC cited her innovative approach to raising the profile of the association and to the recruitment of new members from across central and southern Illinois.

A central goal of the IDC is to support legislation and case law which promotes a level playing field for both sides in civil litigation, resisting all attempts to tilt the playing field against defendants. Fritsche's work in support of raising awareness about threats to a balanced justice system won praise from her peers. In receiving the Distinguished Member award, Fritsche was honored for her conception and coordination of a highly successful networking event that brought together members of the defense bar, the judiciary, and state legislature.

Barbara Fritsche is a partner in the law firm of Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C., with offices in Jacksonville, Springfield, and Winchester. An active litigator, she concentrates her practice on insurance defense and employment law. A Fulbright Scholar, she frequently lectures and conducts seminars on employment-related topics.

The Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IDC) was organized in 1964 and currently has nearly 1,000 members. The purpose of the organization is to promote improvements in the administration of justice and enhance the service of the legal profession to the public; to encourage the prompt, fair and just disposition of tort litigation; to enhance the knowledge and improve the skills of defense lawyers; to advance the equitable and expeditious handling of disputes arising under all forms of insurance and surety contracts, and to work for the elimination of court congestion and delays in civil litigation.

The IDC actively promotes diversity within the association, providing opportunities for professional development and leadership roles, regardless of race or gender. The association is working to encourage diversity in the defense bar, and throughout the legal profession.

Membership in the IDC is open to any attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the State of Illinois; who is engaged actively in the practice of law either privately or on behalf of his/her corporate employer; who is of high professional standard; and who devotes a substantial portion of his or her professional practice to the representation of business, corporate, insurance, professional or individual civil litigants involving tort, contract, insurance, employment, municipal or business matters, and do not, for the most part, represent plaintiffs in personal injury litigation.

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