



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gregory L. Cochran, McKenna Storer,
Sandra J. Wulf, CAE, IOM, Executive Director, 217-585-0991, idc@iadtc.org

Greg Cochran Honored as Immediate Past President of IDC

Chicago, IL – Gregory L. Cochran, managing partner of the Chicago law firm of McKenna Storer, ends his tenure as President of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IDC) with an extensive list of accomplishments. Mr. Cochran served as 2008-2009 President of IDC, which is the premiere association of attorneys in Illinois representing business, corporate, professionals, and other individual defendants in civil litigation. With nearly 1,000 members, the IDC is the voice of the defense bar in Illinois, and is working with the business, insurance, and medical communities in support of tort reform legislation.

Mr. Cochran focused attention across the state on threats to the system of balance and fairness in Illinois courts. He testified at a Joint Hearing of the Illinois Senate and House Judiciary Committees in support of proposed tort reform legislation which would prevent forum shopping in Illinois. The bill takes aim at the abnormally high rates of civil litigation filed in Cook and Madison counties.

Mr. Cochran also found himself in the unusual position of squaring off against the Illinois State Bar Association, over a proposal which would have a dramatic and negative impact on defendants. The ISBA proposed legislation to require the payment of prejudgment interest to successful plaintiffs in nearly all Illinois tort cases.

In response, Mr. Cochran worked with IDC members to draft a widely circulated position paper, outlining flaws in the ISBA proposal. He arranged for an IDC Board member who was also a member of the voting body of the ISBA to address that body. Mr. Cochran himself authored an editorial, published statewide in the ISBA's Bar News, describing how the plaintiff-friendly legislative initiative is bad for defendants, for the justice system, and for the struggling Illinois economy.

Mr. Cochran hands the reins of IDC leadership over to fellow Chicagoan Rick Hammond, a partner in the firm of Johnson & Bell, Ltd., who now serves as President until June 2010.

Gregory Cochran is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. His practice with McKenna Storer is concentrated in the defense of asbestos and other toxic tort cases. He is the author of numerous legal articles, and is a frequent guest lecturer on legal issues.

The Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel was organized in 1964 and currently has almost 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.

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.

###