



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Rick Hammond, Johnson & Bell, Ltd. (312) 984-3425 - hammond@jbltd.com

Sandra J. Wulf, Executive Director, Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (217) 585-0991
idc@iadtc.org

Noted Insurance Coverage Attorney Elected President of Statewide Bar Association

Chicago, IL – The Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IDC) has elected attorney, Rick Hammond, as its 2009-2010 President. Hammond practices in the Chicago law firm of Johnson & Bell, Ltd. He will be installed as IDC's new president at the association's annual meeting, June 12th at the Union League Club, 65 West Jackson, Chicago.

Recognized as one of the leading property insurance coverage attorneys in the nation, Hammond said Illinois is at a critical juncture for its common law system. "We hear a lot about the scales of justice, but the reality is, those scales are not always as balanced as they should be," said Hammond. "Our goal is to foster a more level playing field in the court room," Hammond said of the nearly 1,000 member association.

Hammond takes over the helm of the association with plans to build upon IDC's increased visibility at the State Capitol. "Historically, the plaintiff's bar has had a powerful and well-funded voice in Springfield. Every session sees the introduction of new pro-plaintiff legislation. It's the job of the IDC to ensure that any new legislation being proposed is fair and equitable for defendants. In that regard, you can expect to see us in Springfield, taking a very active role to combat assaults on fairness in Illinois law."

He is the first African American to be elected President of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel in its 45 year history. "My election speaks to the IDC's receptivity to diversity, and that is worth mentioning. However, I see myself as just another hardworking, valued member of the IDC, who climbed the rungs to leadership, like many before me."

Hammond concentrates his practice on property insurance coverage, arson and fraud and bad faith litigation. He received the 2008 Lexis Nexis Insurance Law Center's Honorable Mention "Insurance Lawyer of the Year Award." He was recognized by Lexis Nexis and his peers as "one of the attorneys who did the most in 2008 to effectively advance insurer positions and improve insurance law from the perspective of insurers."

He is a member of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, DRI, and the ABA where he has served as Vice-Chair of their Property Insurance Law Committee. He also serves as General Counsel for the Insurance Committee for Arson Control, a national insurance trade group, and is



Hammond Elected President of IDC

Page 2

on the Board of Directors of the Insurance School of Chicago. He has been widely published in numerous journals and magazines, and he is a frequent presenter at national insurance industry and bar association conferences.

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.

###

Event Schedule: Annual Meeting 5:00 p.m.
Cocktail Reception 5:30 p.m.
Awards Banquet 6:30 p.m.

Date: June 12, 2009

Time: Presidential Installation 5:00 p.m.
Passing of the Gavel: Approximately 7:30 p.m.

Location: Union League Club, 65 West Jackson, Chicago