



American College of Trial Lawyers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS INSTALLS MICHAEL L. O'DONNELL AS ITS 72nd PRESIDENT

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF. (October 2, 2020) – The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), one of the premier professional organizations comprised of preeminent trial lawyers from the U.S. and Canada, has installed Michael L. O'Donnell of Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP as its 72nd President.

Mr. O'Donnell was installed as President at the College's 2021 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. More than 680 Fellows from across North America and Canada gathered in-person and virtually to also induct 46 new Fellows and to discuss issues important to the profession.

"It is my great privilege to serve as President of the College. It's my honor to continue the work of Past Presidents and Committees, including preserving the independence of the judiciary, collaborating with the Executive Committee to promote and maintain the jury trial as a fundamental part of our judicial system, and supporting access to justice for all Americans and Canadians. I am excited to build on newer College efforts such as our *Just the Beginning* Initiative to support underprivileged law students and our new mentorship program for young lawyers," said Mr. O'Donnell, who is based in Denver, Colorado. "I also look forward to supporting the impact our Fellows make through important pro bono work.

"The College is dedicated to supporting the rule of law, even amid unprecedented disruption. Through our Advocacy in the 21st Century Committee, the College will continue to provide guidance and best practices for remote legal proceedings and technology as we navigate the changes in our courts resulting from the pandemic."

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, Mr. O'Donnell settled in Colorado after earning his JD from the University of Denver. Mr. O'Donnell has taken more than 75 trials to verdict and appeared as lead defense counsel in more than 40 states for class and mass actions, product liability, professional liability, and complex commercial matters for many of the nation's leading companies.

Mr. O'Donnell is a founding partner and the chairman of the national trial and litigation boutique, Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP. He is nationally ranked in *Chambers USA* for Product Liability and Mass Torts Defense, and the guide named him the sole "Eminent Practitioner" for Commercial Litigation in Colorado in 2021. His colleagues and peers have voted him the #1 lawyer in *Colorado Super Lawyers* for nine consecutive years, and *Law Week Colorado* named him a "Lawyer of the Decade." Mr. O'Donnell is also a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates, as well as a former chairman of the Network for Trial Law firms.

During the Annual Meeting the College elected the following Officers who will serve until the 2022 Annual meeting in Rome, Italy. President-Elect Susan J. Harriman of Kecker, Van Nest & Peters LLP (San Francisco, CA), Treasurer William J. Murphy of Zuckerman Spaeder LLP (Baltimore, MD), Secretary Richard H. Deane, Jr. of Jones Day (Atlanta, GA) and Rodney Acker of Norton Rose Fulbright as Immediate Past President (Dallas, TX). The College also elected five new members to its Board of Regents at its meeting. The new Regents, who join 10 existing Regents, include Carey E. Matovich of Matovich, Keller & Huso, P.C. (Billings, MT), Robert P. MacKenzie III of Starnes Davis Florie LLP (Birmingham, AL), Cheryl A. Bush of Bush Seyferth PLLC (Troy, MI), G. Mark Phillips of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P. (Charleston, SC) and Karen Frink Wolf of Verrill Dana (Portland, OR).

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About the American College of Trial Lawyers

The American College of Trial Lawyers is comprised of the best of the trial bar from the United States and Canada and is widely considered to be the premier professional trial organization in North America. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings. Learn more at www.actl.com.