



# Champion Magazine

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

<a href="#">Who We Are</a>
<a href="#">Press Room</a>
<a href="#">News &amp; Issues</a>
<a href="#">CLE &amp; Events</a>
<a href="#">Committees</a>
<a href="#">Members Only</a>
<a href="#">Champion Magazine</a>
<a href="#">Indigent Defense</a>
<a href="#">Federal Legislation</a>
<a href="#">White Collar</a>
<a href="#">State Legislation</a>
<a href="#">Affiliate Organizations</a>
<a href="#">Lawyer Resources</a>
<a href="#">Foundation</a>
<b>NACDL.org</b>

[Print or Email This Page](#)

**NACDL News**  
August 2009, Page 12

## **NACDL News** *By Jack King*

### **Cynthia Hujar Orr Sworn in as 51st President of NACDL**

Cynthia Hujar Orr of San Antonio, Texas, was sworn in as president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at its 51st Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass., on Aug. 8, 2009.

Orr has served on the Association's Executive Committee for more than four years, previously holding the offices of president-elect, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, and treasurer, and serves as a member of the Board of Directors.

In her first year in practice, Orr was counsel on the amicus brief in *CNN v. General Manuel Noriega* before the U.S. Supreme Court where she successfully defended this unpopular defendant's attorney-client privilege. She obtained the first confession of error by the state of Texas in a death penalty case.

In 2003-04, she was president of NACDL's state affiliate, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Orr's accolades include induction into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame. In addition, she has been designated, both in 2008 and 2009, as one of the Best 100 Trial Lawyers in Texas by the American Trial Lawyers Association.

A 1979 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and 1988 graduate of St. Mary's University Law School, Orr began her career clerking for Fifth Circuit Judge Emilio Garza when he sat on the U.S. District Court bench in San Antonio. Judge Garza traveled to Boston to swear in Orr as president.

### **NACDL Awardees and Election Results**

NACDL elected and swore in its new Officers and Board of Directors members at its annual membership meeting in Boston, Mass., on Aug. 8, 2009.

Also at the meeting, NACDL Past President Martin S. Pinales was awarded the 29th annual Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award, NACDL's most prestigious honor. Renowned indigent defense researcher, consultant and advocate Robert L. Spangenberg was awarded the Champion of Indigent Defense Award in recognition of his decades of work to improve delivery of legal services to the poor. U.S. District Court Judge Lewis A. Kaplan (S.D.N.Y.) was awarded the Judicial Recognition Award. ABC journalists Shana Druckerman and Juju Chang were awarded the Champion of Justice Journalism Award. University of Utah second year law student Nicholas C. Mills was awarded first prize in NACDL's student diversity essay competition.



**Election Results**

The swearing in of new officers was a highlight of NACDL's Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass. Pictured (from left) are NACDL President Cynthia Hujar Orr, First Vice President Lisa M. Wayne, Treasurer Jerry J. Cox, Second Vice President Steven D. Benjamin, Secretary Theodore Simon, and President-Elect Jim E. Lavine.

NACDL elected new members of the Board of Directors on Aug. 8 at its Annual Meeting. The new board members are James A. H. Bell (Knoxville, Tenn.); Brian H. Bieber (Coral Gables, Fla.); Ray C. Carter (Jackson, Miss.); Anne M. Chapman (Phoenix, Ariz.); Steven J. Feldman (Pleasantville, N.J.); Drew Findling (Atlanta, Ga.); Richard K. Gilbert (Washington, D.C.); Bonnie Hoffman (Leesburg, Va.); Elizabeth Kelley (Cleveland, Ohio); George H. Newman (Philadelphia, Pa.); Kirk B. Obear (Elkhart Lake, Wis.); Mark A. Satawa (Southfield, Mich.); Marvin E. Schechter (New York, N.Y.); Penelope S. Strong (Billings, Mont.); Jeffrey E. Thoma (Fairfield, Calif.); Jennifer Lynn Thompson (Nashville, Tenn.); and Solomon L. Wisenberg (Washington, D.C.).

Board of Directors Members Marvin E. Schechter and Deja Vishny were selected to serve on the Executive Committee.

---

**National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL)**

1660 L St., NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 872-8600 • Fax (202) 872-8690 • [assist@nacdl.org](mailto:assist@nacdl.org)