

a message from the president

The National Trial Lawyers comprises Premier Trial Lawyers from each state, selected for membership through special invitations extended only to those attorneys who exemplify superior qualities of leadership, reputation, influence, stature and skill as civil plaintiff or criminal defense trial lawyers. It is the mission of the National Trial Lawyers to promote excellence in the legal profession through educational programs, networking opportunities, and legal publications that deal with current issues confronting trial lawyers and our clients. After careful consideration and consultation with leadership, NTL is engaging in an exponential expansion which broadens our educational programming, increases our networking opportunities and expands our mission.

The core of our educational programming and networking opportunities continues to be our affiliation with *The Trial Lawyer* magazine, Mass Torts Made Perfect and Torts Made Perfect. Additionally, NTL is expanding opportunities for education and networking at the first ever Trial Lawyers Summit at the Ritz-Carlton South Beach on January 22–25, 2012. Education at the Trial Lawyers Summit will focus on the entrepreneurship of law through discussion and interactive facilitation of solutions to the problems facing every Plaintiff and criminal defense law firm. The conference is open to all plaintiff lawyers and criminal defense lawyers and is designed to be useful to lawyers at every level of practice and experience.

The expansion of our mission beyond education, networking and legal publications is based on the recognition that many of our members exert tremendous power and influence in the judicial system, in politics and in society generally. Our mission is to harness that power and influence and focus it to impact the protection of the judicial system, achieve a full measure of justice for our clients, and to confront those who continue the assault on the rights of individuals in America.

In a timeless political observation, Will Rogers stated, "I am not a member of any organized political party. I'm a Democrat." To some extent, trial lawyers suffer from the same problem. An honest analysis of the pervasive advance of tort reform and the corresponding diminution of the individual rights of American citizens to seek redress in the courts, indicates that we have not used our collective power and resources as effectively as we might. Confirming the aphorism that "those who do good do well," many of our brethren in the trial bar have achieved great influence, knowledge, power and considerable resources. Imagine the potential of harnessing the wisdom, influence and resources of America's Premier Trial Lawyers and focusing these attributes on accomplishing a series of mutually agreeable goals with the purpose of benefiting the judicial system and improving the quality of justice for our clients and individuals in America.

With these goals in mind, *The Trial Lawyer*

magazine is introducing two new initiatives: the Trial Lawyer Round Table and the Trial Lawyers Forum, each of which will have their first meeting at the Trial Lawyers' Summit in South Beach in January.

The Trial Lawyer Round Table will comprise those lawyers selected by you as the 100 Most Influential Trial Lawyers in America. The purpose of the organization is to initiate a dialogue as to how to effectively use our resources, political influence, and communications skills to preserve the judicial system, protect our client's rights and combat the assault on the rights of individual citizens. We will first identify the desired goals and then focus on achieving them. At the initial meeting in South Beach in January, we will begin with a brainstorming session to define the potential that arises out of joining 100 formidable forces into a cohesive unit to fight the forces of evil.

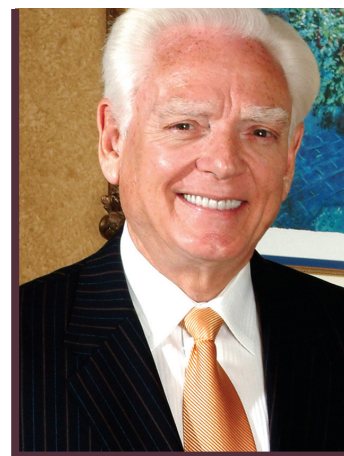
While the Trial Lawyer Round Table will be made up of individual trial attorneys, the Trial Lawyers' Forum will bring together the 25 most influential law firms of trial lawyers, which can approach many of the same issues from a broader perspective. The Forum will consist of four designated representatives from each of these 25 firms. The 100 delegates to the Trial Lawyers' Forum will also hold their initial meeting in South Beach at the Trial Lawyers Summit in January.

The strength of the National Trial Lawyers rests in the quality and influence of our individual members and the strength of our powerful affiliations, which include *The Trial Lawyer* magazine, Mass Torts Made Perfect, Torts Made Perfect, and The Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame.

In addition, The NTL endorses and sponsors educational and networking programs with an emerging group of affiliated associations in specialty areas including the Mass Tort Trial Lawyers Association, the Association of Plaintiff Interstate Trucking Lawyers of America, the National Black Trial Lawyers Association, the Association of Wage and Hour Attorneys, the Environmental Trial Lawyers Association, the National Latino Trial Lawyers Association; the National Brain Injury Trial Lawyers Association; and the National Motor Vehicle Trial Lawyers Association.

For more information re these affiliates, contact Seth Katz, President of MTTLA; Dan Ramsdell, President of APITLA; Jock Smith, President of NBTLA; Robert Camp, President of AWhA; James Vittitoe, President of ETLA; Fernando Chavez, President of NLTALA; Stephen Smith, President of NBITLA; and Steven Gursten, President of MVTALA.

Additionally, the National Trial Lawyers continue to work closely with the leadership of AAJ in supporting the American Association for Justice Leaders Forum at www.justice.org/AAJPAC. Our clients have no stronger voice in Washington than Linda Lipsen, Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for Justice. Linda and AAJ deserve our financial support and



Howard Nations • President

political influence as we work together to protect the remaining rights of our clients and individuals in America. The executive leadership of NTL are all members of AAJ Leaders Forum.

Register your firm today for the first annual Trial Lawyers Summit at the Ritz-Carlton in South Beach January 22–25, 2012. We have designed this event to be conducive to either individual attendance or a firm outing, including the opportunity to have a facilitated brainstorming session solely to discuss issues confronting your firm.

The fun, relaxation and networking begin on Sunday night with a beach party at the DeLido. After breakfast on Monday we will spend the morning interacting with our impressive faculty in a facilitated discussion on Entrepreneurship of Law, on topics including firm management, financing, technology, case selection and other matters which are vital to a successful law practice with those who have been there, done that, and done it successfully. Lawyers at every level of practice can profit from this session.

Lunch will be served at the President's Award Luncheon, in which we will honor, with a lifetime achievement award, one or more attorneys who have gone far beyond the call of duty in giving freely of their legal services to balance the scales of justice, while bringing high esteem to our profession. We will also be entertained at lunch by Reggie Brown with his inimitable brand of humor, portraying President Barack Obama.

The ancient Arab recipe for Tiger Stew begins "First you have to catch the tiger." Monday afternoon will be spent in open facilitated discussion with leading experts on case acquisition and practice building in this modern day of the internet, social networking and the myriad other methods of catching the tiger.

Over the three day conference, 19 hours of education will be offered, including three hours of ethics credit, which can be attended live at the conference or viewed later on the internet, when it is posted on the NTL web site to assist our members in meeting their MCLE ethics requirements.

South Beach in January. What better way to reward your attorneys with the highest quality education, networking with and learning from America's Premier Trial Lawyers, interspersed with fun in the sun. Mark it on your calendar now — as this is the first of many annual Trial Lawyers Summits in South Beach.