



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Prominent Dallas Attorney John H. Martin Honored with National Foundation for Judicial Excellence Award.

CHICAGO – (July 21, 2015)— On Saturday, July 18th, The National Foundation for Judicial Excellence (NFJE) in Chicago bestowed the Richard T. Boyette Award for Outstanding Contributions to the NFJE on Immediate Past Board Chair, John H. Martin, Senior Counsel with Thompson & Knight, in Dallas. The award is presented annually to an individual or corporation that has 1) demonstrated a commitment to excellence in judicial education; 2) shown exceptional creativity and dedication in program development; 3) excelled in fundraising activities on behalf of NFJE; and 4) exemplified professionalism in promoting the case for a well-educated, independent judiciary.

The NFJE addresses important legal and policy issues affecting the civil justice system by providing advanced and topical education to the judiciary, by publishing scholarly works, and by engaging in various efforts to enhance judicial excellence and fairness for all engaged in the judicial process. To carry out its mission, NFJE hosts an Annual Judicial Symposium each summer free of charge to state appellate judges. Mr. Martin has served NFJE as a director, vice president, president, and, currently, as its chairman of the board.

“No one realizes more than John Martin the importance of America’s judges to the rule of law and the strength of democracy,” said NFJE President Marc E. Williams of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in Huntington, West Virginia. “Judicial success is not like a batting average, where success a third of the time is considered excellent. Judges have to “get it right” every time for there to be any faith in the justice system. But the law, in recent years has become enormously more complicated by the explosion of forensic science and technologies. At every position as a NFJE officer, John has raised the standard for quality, relevance, and skill enhancement in judicial education.”

Mr. Martin has been a defense lawyer for over 40 years. A lifelong Dallas resident, he joined Thompson & Knight LLP immediately upon graduation from The University of Texas School of Law, with honors, in 1974. He has been a member of DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar since 1984, served on its Board of Directors and in 2007-08 was DRI president. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He served as President of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel and Chair of the Dallas Association of Defense Counsel.

Mr. Martin served for many years on the Texas Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee and State Bar of Texas Court Rules Committee. He is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow of the American Bar Association, and a Research Fellow of The Center for American and International Law.

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