



Media Contact: Kathleen O'Regan
LACDL Sr. Account Manager
(225)767-7640 | LACDL@tاتمangroup.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 23, 2014

Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (LACDL) recognizes Richard T. Simmons, Jr. with President's Award and 10:1 Blackstone Award

Baton Rouge, La. (December 23, 2014) - The Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (LACDL) honored Richard T. Simmons, Jr., New Orleans, La., with the 2014 LACDL President's Award and 10:1 Blackstone Award during the 29th Annual Justice Albert Tate, Jr. Awards Banquet on December 12, 2014 at the Roosevelt Hotel, located at 123 Baronne St., New Orleans, La.

Simmons is a managing partner of Hailey, McNamara Law Firm in New Orleans, La. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University Law School with a LLM in Environmental Law from George Washington Law School, a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and a retired Lt. Colonel U.S. Army JAG Officer.

"When Rick Simmons learned what the status of [the David Warren case] was he came to us and offered to join with me as co-counsel without remuneration," said attorney Julian R. Murray, Jr., New Orleans, La. "Rick explained that he felt very strongly about the unfairness of second guessing those responsible for the protection of human lives after Hurricane Katrina when they cared enough to risk their lives by staying behind while others in their profession fled."

After facing setbacks with appeals and re-trials, Murray's daughter was diagnosed with cancer at which time Simmons assumed primary responsibility for representing Warren. Simmons' diligent defense and dedication lead to Warren's acquittal on one count of civil rights violation and one count of the use of a firearm during a crime of violence.

"It was an enormous amount of work...he worked without any remuneration to free a man who was wrongfully incarcerated without bail for three and a half years," said Murray.

The LACDL President's award is given to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond in the best interest of the association during the year and the 10:1 Blackstone Award recognizes lawyers who implement Blackstone's ratio in the courtroom, reminding judges, jurors and even skeptical prosecutors that it is "better that 10 guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer."

To learn more about the Justice Albert Tate, Jr. Awards Banquet and other award recipients, please visit www.lacdl.org/tatebanquet. To learn more about LACDL awards, please visit www.lacdl.org/lacdlawards.

About LACDL

LACDL was formed by a group of criminal defense lawyers in 1985. Almost three decades later and with more than 600 members throughout Louisiana, it remains a vital cornerstone of support. Membership in LACDL means joining your fellow defenders in the struggle for liberty, individual rights, the basic principle of due process and the fundamental right to a fair trial. LACDL affords its members the opportunity to network with peers who share in the passion to protect individual rights and those of the accused. For more information, please visit www.lacdl.org, email lacdl@tاتمangroup.com, or call the LACDL office at (225)767-7640.

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P.O. Box 82531, Baton Rouge, LA 70884
Ph: (225) 767-7640 / Fax: (225) 767-7648 / lacdl@tاتمangroup.com / www.lacdl.org