



NACDL NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Professor Robert L. Spangenberg, a Leader in Indigent Defense, Awarded Champion of Indigent Defense Award by National Criminal Defense Bar

Washington, DC (Sept. 3, 2009) – At its 51st Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass. last month, Robert L. Spangenberg received the Champion of Indigent Defense Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). The Champion of Indigent Defense Award recognizes a group or individual for outstanding efforts in making positive changes to a local, county, state, or national indigent defense system through legislation, litigation, or other methods.

Professor Spangenberg specialized in civil legal services early in his career, developing the Boston Legal Assistance Project, a neighborhood civil legal services program, which he headed for nine years. After a two-year foundation study of civil legal services in Boston and a statewide study of indigent defense in Massachusetts, Professor Spangenberg joined Abt Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where for nine years he conducted national and local studies of indigent defense systems across the country.

In 1985, he founded The Spangenberg Group in Newton, Massachusetts, to continue the study of indigent defense nationwide. During his 23 years as President of the organization, he visited all 50 states, testified before legislative bodies about the justice system, and served as an expert witness in court proceedings. The Spangenberg Group published hundreds of reports and studies pertaining to the country's system of justice in criminal and juvenile proceedings, and for more than 20 years, Professor Spangenberg has served as a consultant to the ABA Standing Committee on Legal and Indigent Defendants.

Spangenberg's legal studies and training work has taken him to over 25 countries, including China, Chile, Bosnia, Serbia, England, Scotland, Wales, France, and Austria. In February 2009, Professor Spangenberg joined George Mason University, where he continues his work on indigent defense matters as Research Professor and Founder of The Spangenberg Project at George Mason University's Center for Justice, Law and Society.

In addition to this NACDL award, Professor Spangenberg has received the Reginald Heber Smith award from the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) and the Robert O. Dawson award from the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense in 2008.

Spangenberg received his B.S. in 1955 from Boston University and his J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1961, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review.

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The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is the preeminent organization advancing the mission of the criminal defense bar to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of crime or wrongdoing. A professional bar association founded in 1958, NACDL's 12,000-plus direct members in 28 countries – and 90 state, provincial and local affiliate organizations totaling more than 40,000 attorneys – include private criminal defense lawyers, public defenders, military defense counsel, law professors and judges committed to preserving fairness and promoting a rational and humane criminal justice system.

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

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