



NACDL NEWSRELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Houston Attorney Jim E. Lavine Receives Top Award from National Criminal Defense Bar

WASHINGTON, DC (Aug. 7, 2007) -- **Jim E. Lavine**, a noted criminal defense attorney in Houston, Tex., was awarded the 27th annual *Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award* by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at the association's Annual Meeting in San Francisco Aug. 4. Established in 1981 to honor NACDL's 18th President Robert C. Heeney, the award is the most prestigious honor given by the association and is awarded annually to one criminal defense attorney who personally and professionally best exemplifies the goals and values of the association and the legal profession.

The award was made by outgoing NACDL President Martin S. (Marty) Pinales, with the advice and consent of a group of former *Heeney* recipients. When presenting the award, President Pinales remarked that Lavine had the unanimous acclaim of the nominators. Upon receiving the award, Mr. Lavine, surprised and visibly emotional, said he was honored and humbled by receiving this award, especially in the presence of some of the greatest defense lawyers who have walked this road before him. He promised to continue to fight for the rights of his clients, the profession, NACDL, and the goals of due process and equal justice; and would continue to conduct himself with the highest ethical standards.

A 1974 graduate of Illinois Institute of Technology - Chicago Kent College of Law in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Lavine was the association's Parliamentarian for 2006-07. Mr. Lavine is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, a former director of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, a former President of the Harris County Criminal Lawyers. He has been board certified in criminal law since 1985 by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and since 1986 by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Mr. Lavine has been named a Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly magazine in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. Mr. Lavine was one of two attorneys named attorneys of the year for 2005-2006 by the Harris

County Criminal Lawyers Association and one of two also named as the outstanding lawyers in the state for 2005-2006 by the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

For the past few years, he represented former Enron Broadband chief financial officer Kevin Howard, whose convictions for fraud, conspiracy and false bookkeeping were thrown out by the trial court earlier this year. Mr. Lavine also has acted as lead counsel and co-counsel in numerous other high profile cases including the reversal on a writ of habeas corpus of a triple death penalty case in Oklahoma in which the charges were later dismissed; a complex white-collar case in which the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, finding that the district judge's finding of fact was clearly erroneous, reversed the conviction and ordered the charges dismissed; and a case involving a Duke Energy executive charged with nineteen counts of conspiracy, wire fraud, mail fraud, and falsifying books and records in which the defendant was acquitted on seven counts and twelve counts were dismissed after the jury deadlocked.

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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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