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## Maryland Judge Receives Top Award from National Court Organization

**Williamsburg, VA** (April 28, 2007) – Judge William D. Missouri of the Prince George’s County Circuit Court, is the recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Service Award, one of the highest awards presented by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to a person who has made longstanding contributions to the improvement of the justice system and who has supported the mission of the National Center.

Mary McQueen, NCSC president, recently presented Judge Missouri with the award at a dinner in Williamsburg, Va. “Judge Missouri’s strong leadership and his work on behalf of the judiciary has positively impacted the justice system,” McQueen said. Judge Missouri has been a strong voice in the judiciary for the National Center for State Courts, and he has been an important advocate of the Presiding Judges Conference in the state of Maryland.

Judge Missouri was first appointed to the Prince George’s County Circuit Court in 1987. He was reappointed in 2003 and reelected for a second term in 2004. He has served as county administrative judge since 1992 and was appointed by Chief Judge Robert M. Bell to the position of administrative judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit in 1997. Judge Missouri serves as chair of the Maryland Conference of Circuit Judges and is a member of the Judicial Cabinet and Council. He is chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, president of the Maryland Bar Foundation, and chair of the Judiciary’s Legislative Committee. Judge Missouri earned a B.S., cum laude, from Bowie State University and his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.

The National Center for State Courts, founded in 1971 by Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice and provides leadership, research, technology, education and training to the state courts. The National Center also is taking the lead on several key issues facing the justice system. For example, The National Center is working to improve public trust and confidence in the courts, reform the judicial selection process, develop a model policy on public access to court records, and to improve pro se litigation. The National Center is headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., and has offices in Washington, D.C. and Denver, Colo.

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