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**TOM EDMONDS TO RECEIVE
NABE BOLTON AWARD IN SAN FRANCISCO**

Thomas A. Edmonds, executive director and chief operating officer of the Virginia State Bar, is the 2007 recipient of the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) Bolton Award for Outstanding Bar Leadership. The Bolton Award is NABE's highest accolade and recognizes the exceptional professionalism and achievement of a bar executive. It is named in honor of the late Fred Bolton, executive director and secretary of the Pennsylvania Bar Association from 1966 until 1977.

Throughout a distinguished career in academia as a professor and dean at two law schools and as a bar executive, Edmonds has consistently demonstrated the same dynamic leadership skills and professionalism that have marked his years of service within NABE. Since becoming the Virginia State Bar's executive director in 1989, Edmonds has been extremely active in NABE. He was highly involved in the Chief Staff Executives Committee, serving on the retreat planning committee and chairing the committee in 1992-1993. Edmonds began his tenure as a member of NABE's Board of Directors in 1993 and served for the next 13 years as a state delegate, the NABE delegate to the ABA House of Delegates, vice president, president-elect and was elected president in 2005. He has also served as a special advisor to and a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and has worked actively in the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions and the ABA Joint Committee on Lawyer Regulation.

In addition to his outstanding contributions to the ABA and NABE, throughout his career, Edmonds has generously shared his time with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, the Second Presbyterian Church, the Boaz and Ruth Community Group and the Offender Aid and Restoration Project among many other professional and community activities. A colleague described Edmonds as a "consummate bar executive and bar leader, he is also a kind generous human being. Family, faith, community, profession, as well as public service, have all been attended to in the most dedicated and accomplished fashion possible." Edmonds will retire from his position at the Virginia State Bar, effective December 31, 2007.

The Bolton Award will be presented at the Joint Luncheon of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, NABE and the National Conference of Bar Foundations, on Friday, August 10, 2007, at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco.