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FLORIDA CHIEF JUSTICE R. FRED LEWIS TO RECEIVE AWARD

CHICAGO, September 18, 2007 — The American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section will present a Pursuit of Justice Award to Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis of the Florida Supreme Court at a reception during the TIPS 2007 Fall Meeting at The Breakers in Palm Beach. The reception will take place Thursday, Oct. 4, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

TIPS presents its Pursuit of Justice Award periodically to recognize those who have worked to ensure access to justice for all.

“The continued commitment of Fred Lewis to the pursuit of justice is inspiring. Throughout his career, he has worked diligently to make a difference and be the best person he can be. He has set a high standard and is one of the finest, most thoughtful representatives of the judiciary,” said Section Chair Peter Bennett of Maine in announcing the award.

Lewis was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by the late Gov. Lawton Chiles in 1998. As a member of the court, he serves as liaison to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, the Judicial Management Council, the Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Committee on Standard Civil Jury Instructions, and the Code and Rules of Evidence Committee.

A cum laude graduate of Florida Southern College in 1969, Lewis received his J.D. cum laude from the University of Miami School of Law in 1972. While there, he was a member of the University of Miami Law Review, the Student Bar Association and served as Commander of the Corps of cadets for the University of Miami ROTC program. Lewis subsequently graduated from the United States Army A.G. School, entering private practice in Miami, specializing in civil trial and appellate litigation, after his discharge from the military.

Lewis has served the Florida Bar as Inventory Attorney, spending many hours auditing and reviewing files for the protection of clients. He has written materials published by the Florida Bar’s Continuing Legal Education Program and has participated in numerous cases selected for annotation in The American Law Report.

Selected as Florida’s Citizen of the Year in 2001 by the Florida Council, Lewis has worked extensively on children’s issues, serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Miami Children’s Hospital and many of its committees and panels. While in private practice, Lewis

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Lewis/Add One

provided counseling to families who have children with impairments. He also provided pro bono legal services and counseling for cancer patients seeking proper treatment for multiple conditions. In 2001 Lewis also received the “Everyday Hero” award for his outstanding contributions to community service in Florida.

In 1999, Lewis received the distinguished Friends of Justice Award from the American Board of Trial Advocates for his dedication and service to the citizens of Florida. Lewis is also a recipient of the Public Trust and Confidence Award from the Florida Law Related Education Association; the 2005 Great American Law in Education Award; the 2006 Guardian of The Constitution Award; and the 2006 Education for Democracy Award.

He served on Florida’s Commission on the Legal Needs of Children and is active in the Justice Teaching Institute, a program designed to enhance public education. In 2002 the University of Central Florida created the Justice R. Fred Lewis Award, which is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated the highest level of social responsibility. Lewis received the inaugural award for his service to the youth of Florida.

Lewis is a volunteer in the Florida Law Related Education program working with Florida teachers and students. He is involved in a program of actively teaching and working in schools throughout Florida to promote a better understanding of government institutions and providing open access to court officials.

Lewis was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from Florida Southern College and received an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from St. Thomas University. Additionally, he is a recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions to “We the People, the Citizens and the Constitution;” the Florida State University College of Law Award for Contributions to the Summer Law Program; a Guardian of the Constitution Citizenship Award for Law-Related Education in Brevard County; a Dade County Bar Association Young Lawyer’s Section Dedication to Children Award; and an Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Study of Law, Legal and Public Affairs, by Miami Senior High School. Lewis also received the 2005-2006 Easter Seals Judge Wilke Ferguson Award for Protector of the Disabled.

In 2007 Lewis received the Equal Opportunities in the Judiciary Award, the Constitutional Education Award, the Education for Justice Award and the Justice Thurgood Marshall Award.

The ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section is the only national professional group that brings together plaintiffs’ lawyers, defense lawyers and insurance and corporate counsel for the exchange of information and ideas. The Section’s more than 35,000 members and 34 general committees focus on substantive and procedural matters in areas including aviation and space law, fidelity and surety law, medical malpractice, transportation law and others. For more information about the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section visit the TIPS Web site, www.abanet.org/tips.

Lewis/Add One

With more than 413,700 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.

Editor's Note: *Reporters are invited to attend the reception at the TIPS Fall Meeting. Media credentials can be obtained by contacting Deborah Weixl, ABA Division for Media Relations and Communication Services, at 312/988-6126 or e-mail weixld@staff.abanet.org. On site call 847/902-9019*