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PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney Richard T. Boyette Named President of the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence (NFJE)

RALEIGH, N.C. – Civil defense firm, Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP, today announced that Attorney Richard T. Boyette has been named President of the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence (NFJE). Mr. Boyette, a partner in the firm, has been practicing defense and commercial litigation since 1977. As of the early 1990's, he developed an active mediation practice and, having successfully mediated over 1200 disputes, is recognized as one of the top mediators in North Carolina. In 2004, Mr. Boyette served as a founding director for the NFJE.

Established in 2004 by the Defense Research Institute (DRI) - The Voice of the Defense Bar, the NFJE is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in Chicago, IL. Its mission is to address important legal policy issues affecting the law and civil justice system by providing meaningful support and education to the judiciary, by publishing scholarly works and by engaging in other efforts to continually enhance and ensure judicial excellence and fairness for all engaged in the judicial process.

Over the years, Mr. Boyette has served on many boards and committees of defense-related organizations including the DRI, the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys (NCADA), the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA), and the Wake County Bar Association (WCBA). He has received many accolades for his service, such as the NCADA award for Professional Excellence and the DRI Exceptional Performance, State Leadership and Service awards. For the last three years, Mr. Boyette has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® and *North Carolina Super Lawyers*® in the area of Alternative Dispute Resolution. In 2007, Mr. Boyette was also selected as a Charter Member of The North Carolina Academy of Superior Court Mediators.

About the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence

Established in 2004, the NFJE is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in Chicago, dedicated to supporting an independent, well-informed judiciary in order to preserve excellence and fairness in the civil justice system. For each of the past four years, the NFJE has successfully produced a first-rate annual symposium attracting ten (10%) percent of state appellate judges. The symposia have featured an array of nationally distinguished legal experts and scholars discussing contemporary and complex legal issues relevant today in courtrooms across the country. The end result is the top-quality, tuition-free series of educational programs provided by the NFJE, which assist our nation's appellate judges to perform at their highest levels. For more information about the NFJE, visit www.nfje.net or call 312-698-6280.

About Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP

Founded in 1992, Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP is a law firm which concentrates its practice in the defense of civil claims and lawsuits, representing individuals and businesses of all types. Consistently ranked as one of the largest in North Carolina, the firm has more than 100 attorneys and three locations: Raleigh, Charlotte and Wilmington. The firm handles cases in a variety of practice areas, including medical and professional negligence, products liability, construction defects, police and municipal law, premises liability and security, trucking/transportation law, education law, employment law, workers' compensation claims, commercial litigation, environmental and toxic torts and land condemnation. With its experienced litigators and support personnel utilizing the latest technology available, Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP is generally recognized as one of the most creative and innovative litigation firms in the state today. For more information, visit www.cshlaw.com or call 919-828-5100.