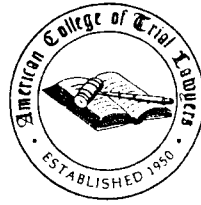


NEWS RELEASE



American College of Trial Lawyers

19900 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 610
Irvine, California 92612
(949) 752-1801

For more information contact:
Dennis J. Maggi, CAE
Executive Director

TITLE: Alan G. Carlson admitted to American College of Trial Lawyers

DATE: October 2003

Alan G. Carlson has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America.

The induction ceremony at which Mr. Carlson became a Fellow took place recently before an audience of 1,150 persons during the recent 2003 Annual Meeting of the College in Montreal, Canada.

Founded in 1950, the College is composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States and Canada. Fellowship in the College is extended by invitation only and only after careful investigation, to those experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality. Lawyers must have a minimum of fifteen years trial experience before they can be considered for Fellowship.

Membership in the College cannot exceed one per cent of the total lawyer population of any state or province. There are currently approximately 5,200 members in the United States and Canada, including active Fellows, Emeritus Fellows, Judicial Fellows (those who ascended to the bench after their induction) and Honorary Fellows.

The College strives to improve and elevate the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice and the ethics of the trial profession. Qualified lawyers are called to Fellowship in the College from all branches of trial practice. They are carefully selected from among those who customarily represent plaintiffs in civil cases and those who customarily represent defendants, those who prosecute accused of crime and those who defend them. The College is thus able to speak with a balanced voice on important issues affecting the legal profession and the administration of justice.

Alan G. Carlson is a founding partner in the firm of Carlson, Caspers, Vandenburg & Lindquist, has practiced law for 32 years and was previously the Chairman of Merchant & Gould.