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PRESS STATEMENT:

Shreveport Attorney Herschel Richard Appointed to the Louisiana Public Defender Board

SEPTEMBER 9, 2011 (BATON ROUGE) – James J. Davidson, III, the President of the Louisiana State Bar Association, has appointed Herschel E. Richard, Jr. to serve a four-year term on the Louisiana Public Defender Board. Mr. Richard is a shareholder with the law firm of Cook Yancey in Shreveport, LA.

At Cook Yancey, Mr. Richard's legal practice involves all types of civil litigation including class actions, products liability, eminent domain, and legal and medical malpractice. Mr. Richard has long contributed his time and talent to legal improvement organizations in Louisiana. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers, and the Louisiana Bar Foundation. He is the past president of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and is a Master Benchler in the Harry V. Booth and Judge Henry A. Politz American Inns of Court. He is also the immediate past president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation. He is a member of the Council of the Louisiana State Law Institute and was the recipient of the Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award in 2000. Mr. Richard was also long-time board member of the Caddo Parish indigent defender system prior to 2007, when a local indigent defender board oversaw each district public defender office.

Frank X. Neuner, Chairman of the Louisiana Public Defender Board says, "We are thrilled to welcome Herschel to the Board. Newly implemented performance standards, training programs and data management are exciting projects that are underway, but as we make these regulatory improvements, we continue to suffer from an acute funding crisis. Herschel's experience in the public defender and private attorney worlds will be an asset to our Board and our success, both in north Louisiana and across the state."

Mr. Richard was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi and received his high school education in Springhill, Louisiana. He graduated from Tulane University with a B.A. in English in 1967 and received a J.D. from the Louisiana State University School of Law in 1970, where he was a member of the Louisiana Law Review. He is married to the Reverend Mary B. Richard who is the Rector of Church of the Holy Cross. Herschel and Mary Richard have three children, Bill, 39; Mackey, 37; and David, 35; and one grandchild, Ginny.

Mr. Richard replaces Ms. Christine Lipsey, who served on the board for two years, and was also a Louisiana Bar Association appointee. Mr. Richard's term began on July 21, 2011 and will run through January 21, 2015.