



Republican National Lawyers Association

P.O. Box 18965 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • Phone: (202) 802-0437 • <http://www.rnla.org>

For Immediate Release
September 27, 2016

Contact: Michael Thielen
(202) 802-0437

JOHN RYDER HONORED AS 2016 REPUBLICAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Washington, D.C. — John Ryder has been named the 2016 Republican Lawyer of the Year by the Board of Governors of the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA). Mr. Ryder was selected as the 2016 Republican Lawyer of the Year in recognition of his outstanding professional accomplishments and years of service to the Republican Party and its ideals. He will be honored at a reception tonight at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, D.C.

RNLA Chair Randy Evans stated: “John’s leadership was key in guiding the Party through a successful Republican convention and RNC meetings leading up to the convention. John’s fairness and integrity were key to a successful process. This is just the latest contribution to the Party of a great Republican lawyer.”

RNLA President Larry Levy stated: “The RNLA is privileged to count John Ryder among its ranks and indebted to him for his leadership, in particular with regard to redistricting, where he has long been one of the foremost leaders. Most importantly, John is, and always has been, a man of honor, as well as an outstanding lawyer. He is most deserving of the 2016 Award.”

John has served the Republican Party in a variety of ways. He has been Chairman of the Shelby County Republican Party and served on the Tennessee State Executive Committee from 1986 to 1996 and from 2002 to 2014.

In 1996 he was elected to the Republican National Committee from Tennessee. He brought with him over two decades of experience litigating redistricting cases in Tennessee, the cradle of one person, one vote. On the RNC, he was appointed to the Redistricting Task Force in 1997 by Chairman Jim Nicholson. Ten years later, he was asked to Chair the Redistricting Committee of the RNC by Chairman Michael Steele.

Perhaps more importantly, John has been a leader in the area of the Rules of the Republican Party. He served on the RNC Standing Committee on Rules from 1996-2004 and from 2008-2016. He served on the Convention Rules Committee in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016. He served as a member of the Temporary Delegate Selection Committee in 2008-2010, a committee which helped develop and refine the presidential nominating system.

In 2013, Chairman Reince Priebus appointed John as General Counsel of the RNC, a position he still holds. The RNC General Counsel is a volunteer position. Given the challenges of the past year, this means that John has donated countless hours to the Republican Party. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1984, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 and an alternate in 1992. He was a Presidential Elector in 1988 and 2004. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the RNLA.

John is a member of the adjunct faculty of Vanderbilt University School of Law, where he teaches Election Law. John is a member of Harris Shelton Hanover Walsh in Memphis, Tennessee, where his everyday practice is concentrated in the areas of commercial litigation and bankruptcy.

The RNLA is the national organization of Republican attorneys. The mission of the RNLA is to advance professionalism; open, fair and honest elections; career opportunity; and Republican ideals. Past winners of the Republican Lawyer of the Year Award include Richard E. Wiley, Betty Southard Murphy, Robert J. Horn, Harvey M. Tettlebaum, Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., Theodore B. Olson, James Bopp, Jr., Charles J. Cooper, J. Randolph Evans, J. C. Boggs III, George J. Terwilliger III, Mark Braden, and Bobby Burchfield.

For more information, please visit <http://www.rnla.org>.

###