



THE NATIONAL TRIAL LAWYERS

Presents

The 2017 Hall Of Fame Inductees

The National Trial Lawyers Association wants to take the time to recognize and honor the 2017 inductees in the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame.

Housed at the Beasley School of Law at Temple University, the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame honors those lawyers who have spent their lives in the service of others. Advocates in both the courtroom and in society, these remarkable individuals exemplify the qualities that all attorneys strive to emulate.

At the Spring 2017 Mass Torts Made Perfect conference at the Wynn Resort in Las Vegas, Linda Lipsen, the Honorable David Herndon, Mark Lanier, Peter Perlman, and Harvey Weitz were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Each of these new Hall of Fame members have devoted their careers to leveling the playing field against massive corporate interests in order to preserve the way of life of the American people, and their stories are as unique as their different approaches towards the legal profession:



Hon. David R. Herndon

David R. Herndon, District Judge in the District Court for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, was confirmed by the Senate on October 21, 1998, pursuant to nomination by President William J. Clinton. His federal tenure followed seven years as an Associate Judge in the Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County, Illinois. Prior to that, Herndon worked as a trial attorney, specializing in plaintiff's personal injury cases, with an emphasis on FELA litigation, for 14 years. An undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville preceded his law degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Judge Herndon served as Chief Judge from October of 2007 through September of 2014 and currently serves as Chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on Judicial Security. He is a member of the Federal Judges Association, serving on the Security Committee there as well. Herndon serves as member of the Seventh Circuit FELA subcommittee to the Pattern Civil Jury Instruction Committee. Notable cases that Judge Herndon has presided over in state court include:

Best v. Taylor Machine Works (ruled Illinois' new tort reform law unconstitutional in its entirety). Notable cases that he has presided over in federal court include: MDL 1275 MCI Phone Rate Litigation (multiple class action consolidated; resolved within 24 months); *USA v. Arther Hawkins, Douglas Pearson, and Alan Gauthier* with pretrial diversion agreements for Exide Corporation and Sears Roebuck. (Three month criminal trial against the top three corporate officers of the Exide battery company for defrauding the public in manufacture of the Sears Die Hard battery); *Wilfong v. Rent-A-Center* (class action alleging gender discrimination resolved in 25 months with agreement that chairman of the board would be replaced and a number of corporate policies changed and new ones implemented); MDL 2100 In Re: Yasmin and Yaz (Drospirenone) Marketing Sales Practices and Product Liability Litigation (involves an oral contraceptive; at one time during the litigation, the largest MDL pending in the nation); and MDL 2385 In Re: Pradaxa (Dabigatran Etxilate) Products Liability Litigation (involved a blood thinning medication; resolved in 22 months).



Mark Lanier

Attorney, Author, Teacher, Pastor and Expert Story Teller, Mark Lanier is no stranger to the public platform. Since he founded The Lanier Law Firm in 1990, Mark has earned international recognition as one of the top trial attorneys in the United States with firm offices in Houston, New York and Los Angeles supporting his work for clients across the country.

Mr. Lanier's courtroom experience is significant and diverse. In December

2016, he earned a \$1 billion combined jury verdict in a products liability case over defective hip implants against defendant DePuy Orthopaedics Inc., a subsidiary of health care giant Johnson & Johnson.

In March 2016, he secured a multi-million dollar verdict in the same federal court in the initial bellwether trial against DePuy and Johnson & Johnson over the metal-on-metal hip implants. This verdict was recognized by the *National Law Journal* as the "Outstanding Medical Device Award" for 2016 and as one of the Top 50 Verdicts of the Year.

He scored another headline-grabbing verdict in April 2014 against Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Eli Lilly & Co. over the diabetes drug Actos.

Mr. Lanier's verdicts are too numerous to name — he has a formidable list of record-setting verdicts and settlements that is one of the most prolific in the legal profession.

His peers and the media consistently recognize him among the country's leading legal minds. Here are just a few of his long list of awards: Trial Lawyer of the Year by The National Trial Lawyers and *The Trial Lawyer* magazine; as well as the Lawdragon Top 500; The American Association of Justice's Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Clarence Darrow Award, awarded to Mark by Mass Torts Made Perfect.

He is regularly named in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, where he also received special recognition as a national leader in product liability and mass tort cases. Mark has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America list for more than a decade, including previously being named the 2013 Top Class Action Attorney in America. Mark's additional professional honors include his recognition as a Litigation Star by Benchmark Litigation; and *The Trial Lawyer* magazine's America's 100 Most Influential Trial Lawyers. Mark's courtroom work has resulted in feature articles in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Bloomberg News* and the *Houston Chronicle*, among many others. He also is a frequent guest on news shows such as CNBC's "Squawk Box" and Fox News' "Your World with Neil Cavuto." Mark also is a regular co-host and contributor to Fox Business News' highly rated "Varney and Company."

Mark also is the founder of the Lanier Theological Library, one of the nation's largest private theological collections. He graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law.



Linda A. Lipsen

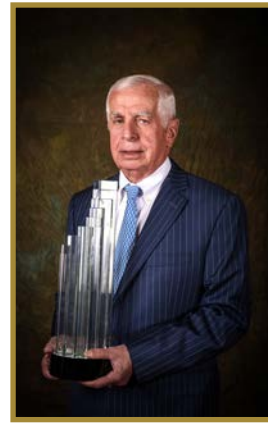
Ms. Lipsen was named Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for Justice (AAJ), formerly known as the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), in April 2010. She joined the organization in 1993 to direct AAJ's Public Affairs department.

Ms. Lipsen has led the trial lawyers' highly regarded Washington lobby team and successfully fought back efforts that would limit access to America's courts and make it impossible for the victims of negligence or willful wrongdoing to be fairly compensated for harm. She has directed countless legislative campaigns on behalf of a host of issues including patient, worker, and investor protections.

Ms. Lipsen has received prominent recognition and numerous awards for her advocacy on behalf of injured Americans, including, among others, the "Senator Paul Wellstone Award" from U.S. Action, the "Esther S. Weissman Eternal Optimism Award" from Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group (WILG), and the Marie Lambert Award. She is regularly recognized in leading Capitol Hill and legal publications such as *The National Law Journal* as one of Washington's most influential women lawyers, *The Hill* as a top lobbyist in recognition of her outstanding professional achievement and *Roll Call* as one of Washington's most effective lobbyists.

Following the tragedy of September 11th, she led the fight for enactment of a compensation program for the victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The September 11th Victims Compensation Fund established by Congress allowed thousands of families to recover compensation for the loss of their loved ones. Following enactment of the Fund, Ms. Lipsen's leadership helped ATLA establish Trial Lawyers Care, the nation's largest-ever pro-bono legal representation program.

Prior to joining AAJ, Ms. Lipsen directed the legislative advocacy program for Consumers Union, the publisher of Consumer Reports. In that capacity, she represented consumers on Capitol Hill on a host of issues including antitrust, insurance reform and health care. Ms. Lipsen earned her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and her J.D. from the Antioch School of Law.



Peter Perlman

During his career, Peter Perlman has worked toward making a safer society by challenging defective and dangerous products. His cases have received national exposure, and he has won more than 60 multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients.

He has served as a former president of AAJ, Public Justice, and the Civil Justice Foundation.

Peter served as an adjunct professor at the U.K. College of Law for 25 years, and has been inducted into the Law School Hall of Fame. His endowment has provided scholarships for 35 students since 1999. He has also established memorial scholarship funds arising out of successful litigation for the families of wrongful death victims.

He has been inducted into many invitation-only professional associations including the Inner Circle of Advocates, International Academy of Trial Lawyers, International Society of Barristers, American Board of Trial Advocates, and most recently, the Melvin M. Belli Society. He also served two terms as a trustee of the National Judicial College.

The Southern Trial Lawyers Association has honored Peter with its "Warhorse Award" and with the prestigious "Tommy Malone Great American Eagle Award." He was the 2015 recipient of the "W. McKinley 'Mickey' Smiley, Jr. Lighthouse Award."

He has received the highest awards given by many national trial lawyer organizations including the AAJ "Leonard Ring Champion of Justice;" the Kentucky Justice Association Lifetime Achievement Award (the only person to be so honored); and the Fayette County Bar Association annual Henry T. Duncan Lifetime Achievement Award. He received the "Compassionate Gladiator Award" from the Florida Justice Association.

He has written many publications for trial lawyers, including the book *Opening Statements Annotated*.

In his community and state, Peter has been involved in numerous charitable activities. He chaired a fundraising effort to build a specialized playground for handicapped children at Cardinal Hill Children's Hospital in Lexington. He was president of Junior Achievement, and has served on many civic boards.



Harvey Weitz

With over 100 cases resulting in verdicts in excess of \$1 million each, Harvey Weitz has concentrated his practice in the areas of civil law, trial practice, medical malpractice, and product liability. A graduate of Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, Harvey received

his Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School where he serves as an Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy.

Mr. Weitz served as president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, a Dean of the New York State Trial Lawyers Institute, national secretary of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and president of the New York State Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. A member of the Inner Circle of Advocates, an organization of the top 100 lawyers in the country, he is also a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers, the New York State Bar Association, and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Whether he is being described as "the trial lawyer's lawyer," being named Trial Lawyer of the Year, or setting records for the highest verdict wherever he has tried cases, Mr. Weitz's extraordinary skill as a plaintiff's advocate is apparent. Mr. Weitz has repeatedly attained verdicts and settlements of several billion dollars.

Mr. Weitz was named to 2010 New York Super Lawyers for personal injury plaintiff — general. Only 5% of lawyers in the state of New York are chosen for this esteemed honor each year. In addition to his professional duties, he has authored and coauthored several books, articles, and periodicals. He has served on various committees of the New York State Bar Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Society of Medical Jurisprudence and other local bar associations.

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