

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**PROMINENT W. VA. LAWYER TO LEAD PUBLIC JUSTICE FOUNDATION**

Harry Deitzler, a fixture in West Virginia law, politics and civic life, has been elected president of the Public Justice Foundation, one of the country's best known national public interest law firms. Deitzler was elected on Sunday in Vancouver, B.C., at the organization's annual meeting.

A one-time Democratic candidate for state attorney general, Deitzler currently sits on the Charleston City Council, where he is vice chairman of the Public Safety Committee. A former Wood County prosecutor, Deitzler joined Charleston's Hill, Peterson, Carper, Bee & Deitzler law firm as a partner in 1991.

In addition to his successful representation of victims of negligence, defective products, unsafe workplaces, pollution and vehicular accidents, Deitzler is known for his charitable work. He and his wife, Kathe, established the Deitzler Foundation, Inc., a decade ago, providing support to more than 50 community organizations, charities and schools throughout West Virginia.

As president of the Public Justice Foundation, he will help direct the organization's nationwide efforts to secure court access and justice in civil rights and civil liberties, environmental protection, consumers' rights, and workers' rights.

Four other attorneys were elected as officers of the Public Justice Foundation at the July 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting: President-Elect Steven E. Fineman of New York City; Vice President Jack Landskroner of Cleveland, Ohio; Treasurer Ted Leopold of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; and Secretary Esther Berezofsky of Cherry Hill, N.J.

Five attorneys were elected to the organization's Executive Committee:

Alan R. Brayton of Novato, Calif.; Wayne Hogan of Jacksonville, Fla.; Anne McGinness Kearsse of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; and Robert L. Sachs, Jr., of Philadelphia, Pa.

In addition, 21 attorneys were elected or re-elected to the Public Justice Foundation Board of Directors: Benjamin L. Bailey of Charleston, W.Va.; Joan B. Claybrook of Washington, D.C.; Ingrid M. Evans of San Francisco, Calif.; Andrew S. Friedman of Phoenix, Ariz.; Stephen J. Herman of New Orleans, La.; Neville L. Johnson of Beverly Hills, Calif.; Rhon E. Jones of Montgomery, Ala.; Taras Kick of Los Angeles, Calif.; Andrew A. Lemmon of Hahnville, La.; Stanley J. Marks of Phoenix, Ariz.; David J. Marshall of Washington, D.C.; Paul Miller of Toronto, Canada; Christopher T. Nace of Washington, D.C.; Michael L. Pitt of Royal Oak, Mich.; Donald H. Slavik of Milwaukee, Wis.; Bernard W. Smalley of Philadelphia, Pa.; Kenneth M. Suggs of Columbia, S.C.; Tara D. Sutton of Minneapolis, Minn.; James F. Szaller of Cleveland, Ohio; Michael P. Thornton of Boston, Mass.; and Janet R. Varnell of The Villages, Fla.

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Public Justice is America's public interest law firm, supported by - and calling on -- a nationwide network of more than 3,000 of the nation's top lawyers to pursue precedent-setting and socially significant litigation. It has a wide-ranging litigation docket in the areas of consumer rights, worker safety, civil rights and liberties, toxic torts, environmental protection, and access to the courts. Public Justice is the principal project of the Public Justice Foundation, a not-for-profit membership organization headquartered in Washington, DC, with a West Coast office in Oakland, California. The Public Justice web site address is [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net).