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North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers Announces Partnership with Salvation Army to Provide Coats for Kids

The North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers (NCATL), a community of lawyers, paralegals, and other legal personnel dedicated to protecting the rights of people, has partnered with Salvation Army to bring warmth to those who need it most throughout North Carolina. As part of this program, association members will contribute much needed resources to Salvation Army offices throughout the state, starting with a program to donate winter coats.

“We recognize the strong public service mission of the legal profession in North Carolina,” says Rebecca Britton, a Fayetteville attorney and President of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers. “This is a way to give back to the community in a very direct way – by putting warm coats on the backs of needy children. We can think of no better partner in this endeavor than the Salvation Army.”

The coat drive is being mobilized through continuing legal education (CLE) seminars conducted by the Academy for its nearly 4,000 members and other attorneys across North Carolina. Attorneys who attend these CLE training sessions are asked to bring new or gently used coats for delivery to local Salvation Army field offices. Coats for children ages 16 and under are requested at NCATL events December 13 in Raleigh, January 19 in Wrightsville Beach, January 26 in Winston-Salem, and February 16 in Greenville.

The coats for kids campaign represents the first of ongoing efforts to aid the Salvation Army in providing resources to the poor. Donated goods will vary depending on the communities' current needs. As winter approaches, coats have and will continue to be donated to local Salvation Army chapters through February 2007. NCATL then will help the Salvation Army meet other needs through the donation program.

Since it was founded over 40 years ago, the Academy has worked to ensure that all North Carolinians can get justice in the courtroom by promoting fairness for injured persons and defending the constitutional right to trial by jury. With nearly 4,000 members across the state, the Academy provides legal professionals with the information and resources they need to serve clients successfully and protect the democratic values of the justice system.