



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS HOSTS SYMPOSIUM ON STATE'S NEW LOBBYING AND ETHICS RULES

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers will host an educational symposium "Ethics and Lobbying: The New Statute" this Wednesday, October 11 at the Academy Headquarters. The event will inform lobbyists, elected officials and the general public about the new State Government Ethics Act, which has created a sea change in the political and legislative landscape in North Carolina.

"We felt there was a need for greater understanding and information sharing about the implications of this important package of ethics and lobbying reforms," said Academy CEO Dick Taylor. "With this legislation, the General Assembly established detailed ethical standards and oversight for public officials and lobbyists. Now it's up to those of us subject to these new guidelines to follow both the letter and the spirit of the law."

This landmark legislation, signed into law in August, establishes standards of conduct for public officials and creates North Carolina's first independent bipartisan commission to oversee ethical standards for all three branches of state government. It also reforms state lobbying laws by creating new rules on reporting expenditures and banning gifts by lobbyists to legislators and other public officials.

"I applaud the General Assembly for making this significant leap forward in winning back the trust of North Carolina citizens," said Phil Baddour, former House Majority Leader and chair of the three-hour program at the Academy.

Baddour will be joined by Rep. Joe Hackney (D-Orange), who co-sponsored the legislation, and Sen. Dan Clodfelter (D-Mecklenburg), the senate manager of the bill. Legislative Staff Lawyers Walker Reagan and Erika Churchill, Ethics Board Director Perry Newson, and Raleigh lawyers John McMillan and John Wallace will review the intricacies of the statute and its implications.

The program is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Academy headquarters at 1312 Annapolis Drive, off Wade Avenue. The event is open to Academy members and the general public at a reduced rate of \$50 and is free for legislators, public officials, and candidates.

Members of the media who wish to cover the event can also attend free of charge.

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.