

**NEWS RELEASE
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**F. DULIN KELLY SWORN IN AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF
THE AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES**

SAN DIEGO (Jan. 14, 2017) — F. Dulin Kelly of the Kelly Law Firm in Hendersonville, Tennessee, was installed as National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates at the organization’s National Board Meeting at the Fairmont Grand Del Mar. Kelly took the oath of office from Patrick C. Simek, who served as National President in 2002.

ABOTA is an invitation-only national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the right to civil jury trials. ABOTA’s primary goal is to educate the American public about the history and value of the right to trial by jury and is dedicated to elevating the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession. Founded in 1958 with a membership of more than 7,600 experienced attorneys representing both the plaintiff and defense bars in civil cases, ABOTA is uniquely qualified to speak for the value of the constitutionally-mandated jury system as the protector of the rights of persons and property. The ABOTA Foundation was established in 1992 to provide education to the American public about the right to trial by jury and to promote the professional education of trial attorneys.

Kelly, who was admitted into ABOTA more than 27 years ago, holds the distinction of being the first person to serve as National President from Tennessee. He was elected by the chapter to National Board Member in 1996 and has served in leadership roles for the Tennessee Chapter, the Southeast ABOTA chapters, the ABOTA Foundation and the National organization. Kelly holds the highest membership ranking possible — Diplomat — for trying more than 100 jury trials in his career.

“ABOTA is intricately woven into the fabric of the life of my family,” Kelly said. He said Sebrina, his wife, has attended ABOTA meetings with him for the past 18 years, and his son Clinton L. Kelly of Hendersonville, Tennessee, is a National Board representative, past president of the Tennessee Chapter, and president-elect of SEABOTA.

He described ABOTA members as having integrity, honor and courtesy — plaintiff and defense — in and out of the courtroom.

“The support and professionalism of ABOTA members over the years have been invaluable to me,” he said. He added that he will continue to pursue creative ways to inform the public through the Save Our Juries efforts; advance the faster jury trial initiative in all states; and strengthen ABOTA’s membership by increasing the organization’s diversity, including the recruitment of younger members.

About F. Dulin Kelly

American Board of Trial Advocates:

- ABOTA National Board member (1996-present)
- National Secretary (2010-2012)
- Committees: Chapter Relations and Revitalization (Chair); Presidential Task Force (founding member); Membership Committee. Past member: Civil Justice Standing Committee, Long Range Planning Standing Committee, International Issues Committee, Awards, and Website and Technology Committee.

ABOTA Foundation:

- Trustee (2007-2009)
- Foundation Treasurer (2009)
- Legacy Fellow
- Faculty member of multiple Masters in Trial programs nationwide and international program (Portugal, 2008)
- Panelist: National Jury Summit, 2011

Regional/State:

- Southeast Chapters of ABOTA (SEABOTA) President (2006)
- SEABOTA founding member (2004)
- SEABOTA Executive Committee (2004 – present)
- Tennessee Chapter President (YEAR), Treasurer (1988-present); and Secretary (2006-10)

Other:

- International Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Litigation Counsel of America
- SuperLawyer
- National Board of Trial Advocacy
- Board of Professional Liability Attorneys
- National Association of Trial Lawyers
- Tennessee Association for Justice
- Best Lawyers as 2013 Medical Malpractice Lawyer of the Year – Plaintiffs for Nashville
- Fellow of the American College of Board Certified Attorneys
- Member, Supreme Court of Tennessee Advisory Commission on the Rules of Practice and Procedure

Board Certifications:

- Certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy
- Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization
- Certified in Medical Negligence by the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys

Education:

- Undergraduate, Vanderbilt University and Cumberland University
- J.D., University of Tennessee

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