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**NASHVILLE BAR  
ASSOCIATION**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NBA Law Day Features Keynote Speaker Bill Purcell; Jack Norman Sr. Award Presented to Tom Thurman; Liberty Bell Award Presented to Dean Bill Koch and David Esquivel**

**Nashville, TN** – With nearly 400 people in attendance, the Nashville Bar Association hosted their annual Law Day Luncheon on Friday, May 4, 2018, at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. Law Day is held nationally during the week of May 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession. For a complete history on Law Day, read Jonathan Cole’s article in the April/May 2018 issue of the Nashville Bar Journal, [Law Day Turns 60](#).

Torry Johnson presented the Jack Norman Sr. Award to Tom Thurman, the retired prosecutor for local high-profile cases such as Marcia Trimble and the Vanderbilt rape trials. The Jack Norman Sr. Award is given to an attorney whose primary practice or service pertains to criminal law, demonstrates respect for the rights of all individuals in the criminal justice system, exhibits the trial advocacy skills or judicial skills necessary to the pursuit of justice, demonstrates an abiding respect for the law and legal profession, maintains highest standards of professional integrity and ethical conduct, and contributes to the improvement of the legal profession and criminal justice system.

The Liberty Bell Award was presented to Nashville School of Law Dean Bill Koch and David Esquivel. This award is given to a person or group who have promoted better understanding of the rule of law, encouraged greater respect for law and the courts, stimulated a sense of civic responsibility, or contributed to good government.

*The Law Day Lunch provides an opportunity for lawyers to come together and celebrate the power and importance of the rule of law. The Law Day theme celebrated a critical component of the rule of law—that is, the separation of powers as set forth in the United States Constitution. Our keynote speaker, Bill Purcell, along with Jack Norman Sr. Award winner, Tom Thurman, and Liberty Bell Award winners, David Esquivel and Dean Bill Koch, all moved us with their powerful messages, and we all are better for having heard them. —Erin Palmer Polly, NBA President*

#### **About the Nashville Bar Association**

The [Nashville Bar Association](#), established in 1831, is a professional organization serving the legal community of Nashville, Tennessee. The NBA—with over 2,500 local attorney members—is the largest metropolitan bar association in Tennessee.

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