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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peter Bennett to Attend National Summit to Preserve Justice Systems as Member of American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Judicial Independence

Portland ME — Peter Bennett, Esq., of The Bennett Law Firm in Portland, Maine will join leaders from 34 states, two territories, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico at a National Summit on May 7-9, 2009 in Charlotte, NC. The summit is titled “Justice is the Business of Government: The Critical Role of Fair and Impartial State Courts”, and is sponsored by the American Bar Association's Commission on Fair and Impartial State Courts and the National Center for State Courts. Bennett will be attending as a member of the ABA's Standing Committee on Judicial Independence and the immediate Past Chair of the 35,000 member Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) of the American Bar Association.

In a cooperative effort to leverage resources, talent and creativity among all branches of government to preserve justice systems, the leaders will compare their own ideas to respond to budgetary stress with public reactions to such options as forgoing juries for trials, closing courthouses one or more days per week, hiking filing fees or simply leaving benches vacant when judges retire or die.

The national summit is designed to foster inter branch cooperation among state officials to maintain justice systems as the foundation for fair government. The agenda features former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, former Georgia Gov. Roy E. Barnes, Speaker Joe Hackney of the North Carolina House of Representatives, David Adkins, executive director of the Council of State Governments, Susan K. Urahn, managing director of the Pew Center on the States, and a host of other leaders from around the country, all focusing on how the three branches of state government can work in tandem to address thorny policy issues.

Justice O'Connor and Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, NCSC chair, will keynote the summit.

In one session of the summit, leaders from five states will share strategies and tactics to promote cooperative approaches to addressing problems that engage all three branches of government, such as the foreclosure crisis, juvenile justice and mental health issues. Another session will detail how tensions among branches of state government affect fair and

impartial courts. In a third, Prof. Pamela S. Karlan of Stanford Law School will contrast public expectations for team work and leadership among the three governmental branches with the views of state leaders participating in the summit. She will review responses to a public opinion poll examining the public's confidence in state and local governments to perform their jobs in areas such as prison overcrowding and caring for abused and neglected children, the public's preferences regarding control over court decisions and budgets, and the public's view of how courts should adjust to diminished resources.

Complete details on the summit and information about justice system funding issues in many states are available at <http://www.abavideonews.org/ABA2831/>.

The Bennett Law Firm was founded over forty-five years ago by its namesake, Herbert H. Bennett, a well known and nationally prominent trial lawyer whose practice focused on representing management on issues of labor and employment law. Throughout the years, the firm has remained relatively small by design and it continues to provide highly specialized legal services to a broad client base.

The Bennett Law Firm is a Charter Member of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms. Primerus is a network of top-quality, independent law firms that are vetted and accredited for membership based on their commitment to rigorous standards based on the following six principles: integrity, excellence of work product, reasonable fee structure, professional education, civility, and community service.

For more information about Peter Bennett and The Bennett Law Firm, please visit <http://www.thebennettlawfirm.com/>.

For more information about Primerus, call 800-968-2211 or visit www.Primerus.com.

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