



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MARYLAND DEFENSE COUNSEL CREATES LEGISLATIVE BRANCH LIAISON, NAMES GARDNER DUVALL TO POST

Baltimore, Maryland, June 13, 2006. The Maryland Defense Counsel (MDC) announced today that it has created a new office, the Legislative Branch Liaison. President Joseph Jagielski also announced that the first person appointed to the post is Gardner Duvall, MDC president in 2004-2005. "I wanted a Legislative Branch Liaison to solidify MDC's expanding presence and growing influence in the General Assembly," Jagielski said. "That achievement is the work of years, and the largest part of the credit for enhancing our visibility in the judiciary committees goes to Gardner."

"Gardner has become so recognizable to the members of the judiciary committees that we want to capitalize on that experience. He can provide continuity while mentoring the members of the standing MDC Legislative Committee, which lets us build our resources without losing experience," explained president Jagielski.

"Being named the first MDC Legislative Branch Liaison is really an honor. MDC has greatly expanded its recognition in the judicial, executive, and legislative branches since I became an officer as Legislative Chair in 2000," Duvall said. "As I worked my way through and out of the MDC officer positions, I stuck with the legislative effort, and that continuity has really paid off for MDC."

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Annapolis lobbyist John Stierhoff, who works on behalf of Maryland Defense Counsel in the General Assembly, noted that “Gardner has helped take the MDC to a new level of recognition before the Legislature and Executive Branch. With the General Assembly facing potentially its most significant turnover in decades, Gardner will provide consistency and stability that will serve the MDC well during the coming legislative term.”

Mr. Jagielski works as Managing Counsel of the Law Offices of Joseph M. Jagielski. Mr. Duvall is a partner handling a variety of civil litigation matters in the Baltimore office of Whiteford Taylor & Preston, LLP. Mr. Stierhoff is Of Counsel at Funk & Bolton, P.A., practicing out of their Baltimore and Annapolis offices in the Government Relations Practice.

About the Maryland Defense Counsel: Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc., is a statewide organization of defense attorneys dedicated to the integrity and preservation of the civil justice system. The purpose of MDC is to bring into close association civil defense lawyers in order to promote the efficiency of the legal system and fair and equal treatment under the law. Membership in the MDC is open to all attorneys who devote the majority of their practice to the defense of civil litigation. The organization was founded in 1962, with an initial membership of thirty Baltimore lawyers. Today, the MDC is a statewide bar association with over 500 members, one of the larger civil defense attorney organizations in the country.