

NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
OF CRIMINAL  
DEFENSE LAWYERS



NACDL  
FOUNDATION FOR  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE

NORMAN L. REIMER  
Executive Director

March 21, 2019

John Kenneth Zwerling, Esq.  
114 N Alfred Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear John,

On behalf of the entire NACDL family, I write to extend heartiest congratulations on the remarkable milestone you celebrate tonight: 50 years of exemplary service as a criminal defense attorney. Over the years, countless of your colleagues have marveled at the creativity, dedication, and passion you bring to your work. You have served your clients with distinction. You have served the profession with honor. And you have loyally supported the defense bar and its many causes through your career-long participation at NACDL.

It is a great personal privilege for me to salute you on this occasion. You have been an NACDL stalwart – serving two terms on the Board of Directors, and participating in the work of numerous committees, most notably and characteristically on the Lawyers' Assistance Strike Force.

There is an additional reason why this occasion brings me a special pleasure. I happen to know that exactly four decades ago this month you were profiled in the March 1979 edition of *High Times* magazine as one of the top defenders of drug cases in the United States. At that early stage in your career you were already recognized as a preeminent leader in our profession. You described the work as “24-hour, seven-day-a-week uphill fight.” And you presciently observed, “[a]ctually, fighting the drug laws in the court is only half the battle. We have to go into the statehouses and Congress and change the laws. All of that takes time.”

Well, John it does take time. But you have stayed the course for all these years. NACDL salutes you with pride, admiration, and respect. You are the quintessential role model we have in mind when we refer to the defense attorney as “Liberty’s Last Champion.”

Very truly yours,

Norman L. Reimer