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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Dick Page, Director of Development**

**James S. Hill to Receive Professionalism Award**

**Alexandria, Virginia (September 15, 2005)** – North Dakota attorney James S. Hill, member of the Bismarck firm of Zuger Kirmis & Smith has been selected to receive The American Inns of Court's 2005 Professionalism Award for the Eighth Circuit. The award will be presented to Mr. Hill by American Inns of Court President Chief Judge Deanell R. Tacha of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and Eighth Circuit Trustee Mariam T. Hopkins of Anderson, Murphy & Hopkins LLP in Little Rock, Arkansas during the opening session of the Eight Circuit Judicial Conference on October 18 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Presented annually in participating federal circuits, the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award is presented to honor a senior practicing judge or lawyer whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession. Candidates are nominated through circuit-wide open nominations and selected by a panel of representatives from both the circuit and the American Inns of Court Foundation.

Mr. Hill is a native of Grand Forks, North Dakota and a 1971 graduate of the University of North Dakota. He received his law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1974. Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Hill served a two-year clerkship for U.S. District Court Judge Paul Benson before serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1976-1981; a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1981-1983 and a Special Assistant Attorney General 1988-1989, 1991-1993 and 1996-2001.

James Hill is a member of the State Bar Association of North Dakota and the North Dakota Bar Foundation; the American Bar Association and a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation; the American Judicature Society; the American College of Barristers; the International Association of Defense Counsel and the Association of Defense Trial Counsel. He is a founding member and former President of the Judge Bruce M. Van Sickle American Inn of Court in Bismarck.

James S. Hill is a litigator with the Bismarck firm of Zuger Kirmis & Smith, where he specializes in civil litigation matters including legal and medical malpractice claims and insurance defense. He is certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has served as the State Bar of North Dakota's delegate to the American Bar Association since 1994 and is the 1997 recipient of the State Bar of North Dakota's Distinguished Service Award.

The American Inns of Court Circuit Professionalism Awards are presented in participating circuits nationwide. The awards are underwritten in part by Thomson - West Group.

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