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NEILY AWARDED COVETED PILLOW TOSSERS AWARD



Arlington, VA – On April 21, 2008, in a closed ceremony, Clark Neily, Senior Attorney at the Institute for Justice was presented with the Unlicensed Designers of America’s First Annual “Pillow Tossers Award.”

The award is given for outstanding achievement in the movement to resist and repeal anti-competitive, unnecessary interior design regulation. As an attorney at the Institute for Justice, Neily litigates to promote economic liberty and the ability of entrepreneurs to earn an honest living free from unreasonable government interference. Neily was presented with the award on the merit of his work representing interior designers in legal challenges to interior design laws in Alabama, New Mexico, and Texas, as well as testifying in state legislatures about the anti-competitive purpose and effect of interior design laws, and providing information and support to designers across the country to defeat regulation at the state grassroots level.

Neily’s recent article exposing the relentless and unfounded attempts to regulate interior design lead by the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), “Watch Out for That Pillow,” [<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120701341410579079.html?mod=djemITP>] was published in the Wall Street Journal on April 1, 2008 and spurred an unsuspected plethora of responses. “We received more responses from this article than we did from the Elliott Spitzer incident,” claimed one of the editors of the Wall Street Journal.

“This [Neily’s] article is right on the mark,” said Patti Morrow, Executive Director of the Interior Design Protection Council, in her Letter to the Editor, published in the April 8th edition of the Wall Street Journal, “but one very important factor needs to be added: ASID does not have the support of the interior design community. They do not have a mandate, nor have the . . . designers elected them to speak on their behalf.” Morrow further adds, “Interior design bills are being met with opposition and defeat in state after state, and we owe Clark a debt of gratitude for his 3 E’s: Energy, Enthusiasm and Expertise.”

When asked for his response to the award, Neily modestly replied, “You don’t go into public interest law looking for accolades or material rewards, but every once in a while you get them anyway,” and further added, “This is the kind of pillow that makes it all worthwhile.”