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**CORAL GABLES MAYOR DON SLESNICK
APPOINTED TO COMMISSION CREATED TO ADVOCATE FOR
CIVICS EDUCATION IN NATION'S SCHOOLS**



(Coral Gables, FL) – Don Slesnick, attorney and Coral Gables Mayor, has been appointed to serve on the American Bar Association’s Commission on Civic Education in the Nation’s Schools. Its stated objective is to develop young people’s interest and knowledge of civics, community service, politics and government; the Commission will advocate teaching an expanded civic curriculum to youth ages 13-19.

The appointment is a welcomed opportunity for Mayor Slesnick, who as a public official and lawyer has demonstrated an abiding passion for outreach to school students and faculty in an effort to bring community and government into the classroom. “I believe that schools need to improve their classroom programming to provide expanded educational opportunities in coursework dealing with our federal form of government and our civic responsibilities in a democratic society,” said Mayor Slesnick.

Joining Mayor Slesnick on the Commission are 19 other distinguished lawyers and judges, as well as educators, organizational leaders, and professionals who together are committed to preserve constitutional values in a time of urgent need in America’s schools. Also representing Florida is Senator Bob Graham while retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor will serve as a special advisor. Other notable members include actor Richard Dreyfuss. The members of the Commission were chosen by ABA President Stephen N. Zack who has stated: “We’re going to go into every high school in America and teach civics, we’re going to bring civics back to the workplace, to the dining room table, to the schools. We will make it central to our daily life so that our way of life continues to be one of democracy and freedom.”

The Commission aims to tackle an educational system in U.S. schools that has diminished its focus on teaching civics as a regular part of the curriculum. They will reach out to superintendents, principals and teachers to inform them about the existing curricula that can be tailored for use in schools.

Several studies show the importance for youth to learn the fundamentals about American government, understand political communication, and gain the motivation for civic participation. Mayor Slesnick agrees that civic education develops healthy and successful youth into productive workers, involved citizens and active volunteers as adults, as he has witnessed this in his own family; his wife and children are involved in countless volunteer-driven organizations.

More information about the Commission, its members and mission can be found at www.abanet.org/publiced/civicedstanding.html.

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About Don Slesnick:

Don Slesnick is currently serving in his fourth term as Mayor of the City of Coral Gables, Florida and served as President of the Florida League of Mayors (2009-2010). Mayor Slesnick is the managing partner for the law firm of Slesnick & Casey, and is on the Board of Directors of the newly established Great Florida Bank. His offices are located at 2701 Ponce de Leon Boulevard Suite 200, Coral Gables, FL 33134-6041, and he can be reached at 305.448.5672. He has been in private practice as a lawyer since 1978, representing public sector employee organizations. Prior to this, he held management positions with the Dade County Public Schools and the Dade County Police Department.

A 58-year resident of Miami-Dade County, he graduated with Honors from Miami Senior High School, received his B.A. from the University of Virginia, a J.D. from the University of Florida and a M.P.A. from Florida International University. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1972 and the U.S. Supreme Court in 1985. Mayor Slesnick is a Vietnam veteran, a former U.S. Army advisor to NATO forces in Germany, and has served for the past seven years as an Army Reserve Ambassador for Florida.

He is a member of the Orange Bowl Committee, and serves on the Governing Council of the American Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law Section. He has also been active in numerous civic and business organizations which include the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (founding Chairman of the award winning program for Ethics in Business & Government) and served two terms as Chairman of the Coral Gables Community Foundation. Mayor Slesnick has served as Chairman, Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council; Chairman, Dade Cultural Alliance; President, Dade Heritage Trust; President, Jr. Orange Bowl Committee; President, Rotary Club of Coral Gables; President of the Two Hundred Club of Greater Miami and President of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

About the American Bar Association:

The American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional association in the world. With more than 400,000 members, the ABA provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public. Their Chicago Headquarters is located at 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654-7598, and they can be reached by calling 312.988.5000.