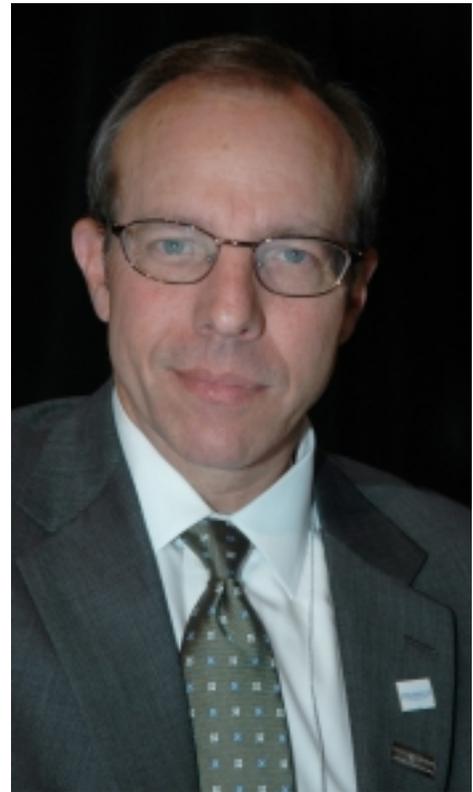


The National Consumer Law Center
is pleased to announce

**Michael D.
Donovan**
is the 2009
**Vern Countryman
Award**



Cary Flitter describes Mike as one of the very best in our community of consumer advocates - a compelling leader, a superb trial attorney, and a quality human being. Mike brings a big case, high impact litigation approach to the nitty-gritty, everyday wrongdoings experienced by all too many low-income people in America. His successes often change for the better the way the marketplace works for low-income families and others across the country. The fact that four former Countryman Award winners have supported his nomination testifies to his passion for the rights of the less well off and to the leading role Mike has played in the consumer law movement.

“...what is particularly deserving of recognition are his excellent and successful trial advocacy skills resulting in four substantial verdicts in class action trials over the last four years. I am aware of no other consumer lawyer in the country that has achieved such a level of class action jury trial success...Mike has pursued successfully many other cases for which he has properly received national recognition for his creative strategies and brilliant legal arguments.” - James C. Sturdevant

“He is a highly skilled consumer attorney who has demonstrated the kind of creative lawyering and professional leadership that makes him an ideal candidate...the Countryman Award is not only about good lawyering; it also recognizes contributions made to the community itself. Here, too, Mike’s contributions have been exemplary.” - Irv Ackelsberg

“I had the privilege of working with Mike and getting to know him well when we were co-chairs of NACA last century. I have learned that Mike’s commitments and talent are commensurate with his well deserved success and that is to say exemplary and extraordinary on all counts.” - Richard Rubin

“...[as a young legal aid attorney] I was in awe of his accomplishments and intrigued by how much change he was able to effectuate even in defeat. Despite his already impressive resume he was so accessible to us all and willing to share his knowledge and experiences.” - Lynn Drysdale