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NADCP and Beam Global Spirits & Wine, Inc. Partner to Create New Division for DWI Courts

Washington D.C. – May 2007 – Unveiling the National Center for DWI Courts, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) introduced its newly-designated operational wing designed to focus training and technical assistance efforts on the growing field of DWI courts nationwide. Partnering with Beam Global Spirits and Wine, NADCP Chief Executive Officer West Huddleston presented the new training wing as a step toward eliminating hardcore and repeat drunk driving through the expansion of DWI Court programs nationwide. Currently, 396 such programs are in existence (286 hybrid drug/ DWI courts and 110 designated DWI courts).

Assembling in the Lyndon B. Johnson Capitol Room, Members of Congress, traffic safety experts, DWI Court judges and prosecutors and law enforcement officials comprised the audience. Professional race car drivers Michael Andretti and Robby Gordon, each dedicated supporters of the fight against impaired driving, drew attention to the life-saving programs as successful solutions to erase hardcore and repeat impaired driving offenses. Mr. Huddleston described the National Center for DWI Courts as an institute dedicated to delivering research-driven practices to reduce drunk driving recidivism nationwide.

“The need is great to have a court-focused institute for repeat and hard core drunk driving offences. Law enforcement does a remarkable job at detecting these dangerous and impaired drivers. Now, it is up to the courts in every community to implement strategies that significantly reduce drunk driving recidivism,” he stated. “Research has shown us that hard core and repeat drunk driving offenders require higher levels of accountability and long-term treatment. Through our DWI Court programs, we have proven that blending long-term treatment with the accountability, immediacy and certainty of court response works more effectively than punishment alone. We hope to build on that success by raising awareness for expanding the program.”

Indy Racing League (IRL) driving legend Michael Andretti said, “In my job, I know better than anyone the importance of good judgment and split-second decision making. I implore the public not to drive drunk, and I fully support programs that are proven to help reduce the instances of drunk driving, such as DWI Courts.”

NASCAR driver Robby Gordon continued, “I am impressed with the results NADCP has achieved with its DWI Courts. I would like to offer my appreciation to Beam Global for supporting the National Center for DWI Courts and for including me in their efforts to help raise awareness for this program. I hope the program continues to expand.”

The event also served as an opportunity to recognize key Members of Congress who have been integral to the establishment and expansion of DWI Courts nationwide.

Representatives Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Jon Porter (R-NV) each received plaques for their continued support of DWI Courts. Representative Don Young (R-AK) was also the recipient of a plaque of appreciation for his efforts to include DWI Court-specific language in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).