



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

North Carolina Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA)

601 St. Mary's Street, Raleigh, NC 27605

Contact: NCRMA President Andy Ellen or Communications Director Christie Burris
(919) 832-0811

Raleigh, NC (January 4, 2012) – Andy Ellen has been promoted to President of the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA), becoming the fifth person to lead the organization since its inception in 1902. Andy will also be responsible for leading NCRMA's seven affiliated companies.

He will succeed Fran Preston, who retired December 31, 2011, after thirty years of service.

Originally from Southern Pines, North Carolina, Andy Ellen is a 1992 graduate of Elon University. He received his Juris Doctorate from the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University in 1997, and became licensed to practice law in North Carolina that same year.



Prior to signing on as NCRMA's legal counsel and lobbyist in 1998, Andy lobbied with the North Carolina Farm Bureau. During the 14 years that he has advocated for the retail industry before the North Carolina General Assembly, Executive Branch and regulatory bodies, he has also served on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Professional Lobbyists Association and Co-Chaired the Legislative Committee for the Young Lawyers Division of the North Carolina Bar Association.

The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research ranked Andy as one of the most 15 influential lobbyists during each of the past three bienniums including being ranked as the second most effective lobbyist in North Carolina for the 2009-2010 Legislative Session.

He lives in Wake Forest with his wife, Tricia, and their two daughters, Julia and Jenna.

###

About NCRMA

The North Carolina Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA) is a non-profit trade association that was organized in 1902 to improve the business climate for retail merchants in North Carolina. Now, over 100 years later, NCRMA is the voice of the retail industry in North Carolina. NCRMA serves both large and small retailers from multi-state chains to local "Mom-and-Pop" operations; members represent all types of businesses including antique, apparel, art, automotive, book, carpet, department, drug, electronics, floral, furniture, grocery, hardware, jewelry, paint and variety stores. The association represents the interests of individual merchants before the members of the General Assembly and serves as a vital link to state government.