

**SPEAKERS**  
**Lou Harris Press Conference**  
**July 12, 2004**

**Judith Lee Stone** serves as president and as a member of the board of directors of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates), as well as heading the staff as executive director. She has been with the organization since its inception in 1989. Stone has 37 years of experience in Washington legislative and political affairs, and was previously executive director of the National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representative. She also served as director of federal affairs with the National Safety Council. In the Carter Administration, she served in two safety positions in the U.S. Department of Transportation, first as special assistant to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator, and as director of the Department Of Transportation Secretary's Office of Consumer Liaison. In late 1994, Stone was appointed to the Federal Motor Carrier Advisory Committee by Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña. She served on the board of directors of the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and as a member of the advisory board of the Partners for Child Passenger Safety, a collaborative research project of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance Companies. She is a trustee of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., as well. Stone lives in Washington, D.C. and is a graduate of Northwestern University in sociology and journalism.

**Louis Harris**, the dean of American public opinion analysts, has practiced his profession on a global basis for five decades. In 1962, he developed the first breakthrough in computerization of election results on a sample precinct basis, which allowed CBS, working with Harris and IBM, to successfully project the winners of the election only minutes after the polls closed. Walter Lippmann called this development “a major social science landmark for the twentieth century.” Harris has helped elect 43 members of the U.S. Senate, 24 Governors, and 31 Mayors, among other public officials. When he gave up polling for private clients, Harris was called “a new kind of political figure who has had more influence over the course of elections than the old political leaders of yore.” He did all the polling in the election of John F. Kennedy for president in 1960 and for Lester Pearson for prime minister in Canada in 1963.

Harris' accomplishments include groundbreaking studies in the private, social and public arena. In the private sector, Harris conducted many studies including the first studies of how stockholders assess the management of public companies, the first surveys of corporate manager's evaluations of the management of pension funds and the first studies on why and how people make their decisions to prefer one airline over another for American Airlines. In the social area, Harris conducted the first cross-sectional studies among whites and blacks on racial tensions for Newsweek and later for Time, followed by a series of updates over the past 30 years, the latest in 1993. Harris also pioneered six consecutive studies of the impact of the arts and its various disciplines on the lives of the American people, sponsored by the American Council for Arts and Philip Morris, between 1974 and 1992. In the public political polling area, Harris was the only polltaker

to predict that Ronald Reagan would win in 1980 and that the Democrats would gain back seats in the 1998 off-year elections. He has long been recognized for conducting polls that not only predict the outcome of elections, but also probe deeply for the underlying dynamics in public opinion that are driving the final voters' decision-making in arriving at their choices.

**Dena Parker** is the wife of Patrick Parker, who was seriously injured in a rollover crash in 2001 and is now a quadriplegic. The Parkers are from Childress, Texas.

**Carrie Thornton** is from Marietta, Georgia and a senior at the University of Alabama, where she serves as vice president of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. She also is a member of the University of Alabama student senate, representing the College of Communications.

**Alan Maness** is Associate General Counsel for State Farm Insurance Companies and has been with State Farm since 1994. Prior to joining State Farm, Mr. Maness was Senior Minority Counsel for the Aviation, Consumer and Surface Transportation Subcommittees of the Senate Commerce Committee from 1986 to 1994. He was also an attorney with the U.S. department of Justice from 1982 to 1986 and special assistant to U.S. Attorney for Washington, D.C. from 1984 to 1985. Mr. Maness graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina in 1978 and received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1981.

**Joan Claybrook** has been the president of Public Citizen, a non-profit citizen's research, lobbying, and litigation organization that seeks to improve the health and safety of the public, since 1982. She currently serves as Advocates' program committee chair, and was the founding consumer co-chair from 1989-92. Claybrook began her political career on Capitol Hill as a congressional fellow with the American Political Science Association, and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) from 1977-81. Previously, she was the founder and director of Public Citizen's Congress Watch, a congressional lobbying group, from 1973-77, and worked on the Congress Project in 1972. She also served as a special assistant to the administrator at the National Traffic Safety Bureau, from 1966-1970. Claybrook holds a B.A. in History from Goucher College, a J.D. from Georgetown Law Center, and has authored numerous books and articles about consumer and safety issues. She frequently testifies before Congress on a broad range of consumer, health and safety issues.