



**Asbestos Disease Awareness Association**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Pulitzer Prize Journalist Andrew Schneider Announced as Keynote Speaker at the International Asbestos Awareness Conference on March 28 in Manhattan Beach, CA**

MANHATTAN BEACH, CA – Award winning journalist Andrew Schneider, known for his thorough investigative reporting, was just announced as the keynote speaker at the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization's (ADAO) Fifth Annual International Asbestos Conference to be held on March 28, 2009 in Manhattan Beach, California.

Schneider's years of experience in public health, safety and environmental issues, including asbestos contamination, has garnered the attention of national and global leaders and has helped voice the plight of thousands of people who have fallen victim to unsafe environmental conditions.

Schneider is senior national correspondent for investigations at the Seattle Post-Intelligence. Formerly, he served as a national correspondent for the Baltimore Sun, deputy assistant managing editor at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, editor for investigations for The Oregonian, assistant managing editor for Scripps Howard Newspapers in Washington, and special editor for The Pittsburgh Press. He has also worked for The Associated Press and Newsweek, and was co-founder and first director of Indiana University's National Institute for Advanced Reporting.

Schneider has won two prestigious Pulitzer Prizes, one in public service and one for specialized reporting. He was also recognized with the National Headliner Award, the Society of Professional Journalists' Public Service Award, the George Polk Award, and the John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism.

"We are honored to have Andrew Schneider as our distinguished keynote speaker at this year's conference," said Linda Reinstein, executive director and co-founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization. "He has fought for the rights of all those impacted by unsafe environmental conditions for decades, including deadly asbestos exposure, with an unwavering commitment to justice."

**"United for Asbestos Disease Awareness, Education, Advocacy, Prevention, Support and a Cure."**

The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization is a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.  
1525 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 318 · Redondo Beach · California · 90278 · 310.437.3886  
[www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org](http://www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org)

The international conference will provide education and outreach to families, employers/employees and scientists throughout the world as part of ADAO's continuing efforts to educate the public about the dangers of asbestos, ban its use and encourage research efforts to improve treatment options.

In addition to Schneider, the conference will bring together prominent physicians, scientists, safety and health care professionals who are experts in the area of asbestos representing the United States, England, South Africa, India and Germany. Discussion will include current information regarding the status and impact of asbestos in the United States and globally; facts on exposure, asbestos-related diseases and how to prevent them and where to turn for help. The international conference is made possible by ADAO, the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat.

- WHAT:** **ADAO's Fifth Annual International Asbestos Awareness Conference**  
***Global Mission: Call to Action to Prevent, Detect and Treat Asbestos-Related Diseases***
- WHEN:** **Evening Reception with entertainer Jordan Zevon – Friday, March 27, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Conference – Saturday, March 28, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Remembrance Brunch – Sunday, March 29, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
- WHERE:** **Marriott Manhattan Beach**  
1400 Parkview Ave.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
- WHY:** To share information and provide support to those affected by asbestos-related diseases, including survivors, families and physicians. Prominent physicians, scientists, safety and health directors and survivors will present current and up-to-date information regarding the status of asbestos in the United States and worldwide.
- WHO:** **Laurie Kazan-Allen**, Founder and Coordinator, IBAS; **Robert Cameron**, MD; **Barry Castleman**, ScD; **Helen Clayson**, MBBS, FRCP, FRCGP, MD; **Portia Cohen**, Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Manhattan Beach, CA, keynote speaker for Remembrance Brunch; **Arthur Frank**, MD, PhD; **Michael Harbut**, MD, MPH, FCCP, Karmanos Cancer Institute; **Michael Horwin**, President of Cancer Monthly; **Brent Kynoch**, Managing Director, EIA; **Richard Lemen**, PhD, MSPH; **Stephen Levin**, MD; **Sarah Mereotlthe**, RN, Kuruman, South Africa; **Linda Reinstein**, Executive Director and Co-founder, ADAO; **Joachim A. Roesler**, MD, MPH; **Andrew Schneider**, award-winning journalist and keynote speaker; **Margaret Seminario**, Director of Safety and Health, AFL-CIO; **Jordan Summer**, Musician; **John Thayer**, Former Supervisor, Capital Power Plant Tunnel Crew, Washington, DC.; **Jill Vaughn**, ADAO ACOR Representative; **Jordan Zevon**, ADAO National Spokesman and Musician; **Paul Zygielbaum**, ADAO Project Manager and Mesothelioma Survivor.

Five individuals will also be recognized for their tireless work to raise awareness of asbestos exposure. They are:

**U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer** will be presented with the **Tribute of Hope Award** for her steadfast commitment and determination to ban asbestos. Acceptance via video.

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**Margaret Seminario, AFL/CIO** will receive the **Tribute of Unity Award** for the union's global work to unite, educate and empower asbestos victims and workers.

**Stephen Levin, MD**, will be recognized with the **Dr. Irving Selikoff Lifetime Achievement Award** in honor of his dedicated research into the social and medical impact asbestos has had on humankind.

**Pralhad Malvadkar** and **Raghunath Manwar** will be presented with the **Tribute of Inspiration Award** for being a bridge of hope and strength to victims of asbestos exposure in India and worldwide. Acceptance via video.

**HOW:** Registration for the March 28 conference includes lunch and the March 27 evening reception. Cost is \$100 for survivors, caregivers, families and students. Cost for physicians and healthcare professionals are \$250.

The Remembrance Brunch on March 29 is an additional \$25 for conference attendees and \$50 for those not attending the conference.

Registration is limited. To reserve your registration or for more information go to [www.adao.us](http://www.adao.us). Please note that parking fees are not included in registration fees.

### **About Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)**

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) was founded by asbestos victims and their families in 2004. ADAO seeks to give asbestos victims and concerned citizens a united voice to help ensure that their rights are fairly represented and protected, while raising public awareness about the dangers of asbestos exposure and often deadly asbestos related diseases. ADAO is an independent volunteer organization. For more information visit [www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org](http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org).

### **About Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute**

Located in mid-town Detroit, MI, the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is one of 40 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States. Caring for more than 6,000 new patients annually on a budget of \$216 million, conducting more than 700 cancer-specific scientific investigation programs and clinical trials, the Karmanos Cancer Institute is among the nation's best cancer centers. Through the commitment of 1,000 staff, including nearly 300 faculty members, and supported by thousands of volunteer and financial donors, the Institute strives to prevent, detect and eradicate all forms of cancer. For more information call 1-800-KARMANOS or go to [www.karmanos.org](http://www.karmanos.org).

### **About International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS)**

The International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS), established in 2000, provides a conduit for the exchange of information between groups and individuals working to achieve a global asbestos ban and seeking to alleviate the damage caused by widespread asbestos use. Since its inception, IBAS has been involved in co-sponsoring and supporting national and international conferences on 6 continents. Through its coordinator, Laurie Kazan-Allen, IBAS channels the views of a network of victims' groups, medical and legal professionals and concerned individuals. IBAS has a continuing role in raising public awareness of asbestos hazards and providing informed comment on current developments.

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