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THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS (NFPA®) ASSOCIATION PRO BONO AWARD GIVEN TO CLEVELAND ASSOCIATION OF PARALEGALS

Edmonds, WA – November 2011 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (NFPA) selected the Cleveland Association of Paralegals (CAP) as the recipient of the organization's 2011 Association Pro Bono Award for their assistance to the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program. The award, sponsored by Kroll Ontrack, was presented at NFPA's Annual Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota on October 14, 2011.

The Association Pro Bono Publico Award is presented to an NFPA member association whose pro bono program has exhibited outstanding dedication and service to the public by assisting low-income residents to gain access to the legal system.

In August 2005, Peter Elliott, United States Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio, launched a program in which fugitives could safely surrender themselves to law enforcement, pay outstanding fines, reset court dates, if necessary and no longer be under the long arm of the law as a fugitive. Marshall Elliott believed that fugitives who had outstanding warrants out for non-violent and low level crimes deserved a second chance. Many of these fugitives are believed to have feared the consequences, personnel or environment of the law enforcement agencies, therefore staying on a path of running from the law.

Entitled "Fugitive Safe Surrender Program" Marshall Elliott brought together a partnership of local Cuyahoga County legal professionals to assist in the program, including individuals from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Cuyahoga Sheriff's Department, the Cuyahoga County Court Judge's and Public Defender's Offices, the Ohio Attorney General, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, the Cleveland Police Department and many more.

CAP was contacted in August 2010 with an amazing Pro Bono opportunity. From September 22-25, 2010 the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program was going to be held in Oakwood, Ohio at Mt. Zion Church and they wanted CAP's help. CAP members were utilized in various aspects of the process, from initial greeting and intake of information to entering charges and organization of individuals who were turning themselves in.

CAP had more than 15 members who worked long and multiple days partnering with the Cleveland Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Section as well as the countless County offices and officials. The program was a huge success. In total, an astounding 7,431 fugitives were surrendered as CAP members strived to pay personal attention to each case.

NFPA is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 10,000 paralegals and is headquartered in Edmonds, WA. NFPA's core purpose is the advancement of the paralegal profession. NFPA promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community.

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