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THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS (NFPA) ASSOCIATION PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARD GIVEN TO OREGON PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

Edmonds, WA – February 2011 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (NFPA) selected the Oregon Paralegal Association (OPA) as the recipient of the organization's 2010 Association Pro Bono Publico Award. The award was presented at NFPA's Annual Convention in Cherry Hill, New Jersey on October 9, 2010.

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 2007 the Oregon Paralegal Association leadership made a decision to put pro bono efforts in the forefront and in just three short years both pro bono participation and development is at an all-time high and can arguably be compared with even the most established paralegal programs.

OPA's first pro bono boosting project was with the Victim Rights Law Center which is a national program dedicated solely to serving the legal needs of sexual assault victims (women and children).

The current pro bono course that OPA is on is elating, encompassing and encouraging its members to not only be better paralegals, but better people. OPA has learned that pro bono is unique in that it is an area that all association members universally support. A prominent pro bono agenda can unify a splintered leadership, increase membership, market an association within the community, and provide success opportunities for individual members. OPA has received all of those benefits by moving their pro bono program to the forefront. Now that OPA has seen what a difference a solid pro bono program makes to an association and the community it serves, OPA will never accept apathy in this area again.

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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