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INDIANA BAR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES LAW-RELATED EDUCATION AND PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Indiana Bar Foundation (IBF) has selected recipients for its 2004 Law-Related Education and Pro Bono Publico Awards. The IBF's Law-Related Education Award recognizes lawyers, law firms or bar organizations for excellence in providing information that enhances the public's understanding of the law and the legal system. The 2004 winner, the Indiana Court of Appeals, First District, was selected based upon its consistent support of the annual St. Mary of the Woods College Law Day Program. The Law Day Program gives middle school, high school and college students law-related education on the Constitution, the legal system, the role of the paralegal and allows them to participate in a mock trial and hear a Court of Appeals oral argument. The judges for the Indiana Court of Appeals, First District are L. Mark Bailey, Greensburg, John G. Baker, and Edward W. Najam, Jr., both of Bloomington.

The IBF also selected recipients for its annual Pro Bono Publico Award that recognizes the extraordinary contributions that are made toward ensuring that legal services are available to persons who otherwise could not afford them. The award serves to focus public awareness on the substantial voluntary services rendered annually by Indiana lawyers. Recipients of the 2004 award are:

Eric M. Douthit, Partner at Church, Church, Hittle and Antrim in Noblesville. Mr. Douthit is recognized for his pro bono services to the members of the Indianapolis Senior Citizens Center. He held regular monthly appointment times to provide his legal expertise to elderly Hoosiers that would otherwise not have access to legal assistance.

Plews, Shadley, Racher & Braun in Indianapolis. Plews, Shadley, Racher & Braun is recognized as the only law firm to receive the IBF's Pro Bono Publico Award this year. The firm has contributed 383 hours of pro bono services in the last year and many of its attorneys have taken cases through the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic. In addition, the firm donated its services on a death penalty post-conviction appeal taken through the American Bar Association's Death Penalty Representation Project.

John Pushor of Columbus. Mr. Pushor is a retired attorney with over forty years of private practice. He is recognized for his volunteer efforts to the Bartholomew Area Legal Aid as the Client Counseling Program Director. Mr. Pushor has been responsible for matching 1,491

eligible applicants with pro bono attorneys since 1999. He volunteers as much as 20 hours a week referring cases to attorneys in Bartholomew, Brown, Decatur Jackson and Jennings counties.

Rod Tucker, Law Office of Rodney Tucker of Indianapolis. Mr. Tucker, a practicing attorney for 24 years, is recognized for his commitment to provide pro bono legal services to the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic on a weekly basis to assist with the organization's caseload. So far in 2004, Mr. Tucker has taken 15 pro bono cases.

Juliet Yackel, attorney in private practice in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Yackel is recognized for her continuing pro bono representation in appeals of Darnel Williams' 1987 death sentence from Lake County Superior Court, Indiana. She began her career as a deputy to the Public Defender of Indiana and her first client out of law school was Mr. Williams. Ms. Yackel represented Williams for more than ten years and was successful in convincing Governor Kernan to grant him clemency earlier this year.

"All of these award recipients truly exemplify the tremendous community service ethic of the legal profession in Indiana. The dedication of these people to give back to their communities is just an example of what attorneys throughout the state do on a continual basis. The Indiana Bar Foundation is happy to spotlight some these efforts," stated Charles Dunlap, Executive Director of the Indiana Bar Foundation.

The 2004 recipients of the Indiana Bar Foundation Law-Related Education and Pro Bono Publico Awards will be recognized at the Annual Randall T. Shepard Award Dinner on Friday, October 15th, at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis.

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