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**Immediate Release**

**Attorney Substance Abuse Video Receives 2012 Virginia Public Relations Award**

**Richmond, Virginia** (May 24, 2012) . . . A video of Virginia's legal leaders discussing the issue of attorneys and substance abuse received a Capital Merit Award during the 65th Virginia Public Relations Awards ceremony held Wednesday, May 16 at The Jefferson Hotel.

The Public Relations Society of America – Richmond Chapter presented Patricia C. Hassard, marketing consultant, with an award in the “external video programs” category for the video titled “Lawyers Helping Lawyers – Confidential Road to Recovery.” The 11-minute video features prominent leaders from Virginia's legal community who discuss the issue of substance abuse and mental illness among attorneys and how Lawyers Helping Lawyers (LHL) offers statewide confidential, non-disciplinary, peer counseling for lawyers, law students and judges.

David S. Mercer, a principal with MercerTrigiani law firm in Alexandria, Virginia, developed the video concept and he and his partner, Pia Trigiani, funded production. Originally showcased during September 2010 in recognition of LHL's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the video is now presented by LHL board members during CLE seminars conducted for Virginia law firms, law schools, bar associations and judicial groups.

PRSA Richmond hosts the Annual Virginia Public Relations Awards to recognize the most innovative and influential public relations programs of the year. This year more than 89 entries were submitted in 23 different categories for public relations campaigns and tactics.

**About Virginia Lawyers Helping Lawyers**

Virginia Lawyers Helping Lawyers is a non-profit organization using a statewide network of volunteers to provide confidential, 24-hour assistance to attorneys and judges who are experiencing substance abuse or mental health problems. Trained volunteers serve as peer counselors, conduct assessments, implement interventions, provide treatment referrals, monitor rehabilitation contracts and support family members. For more information on LHL or to obtain a DVD of the video, contact David Mercer at [David.Mercer@MercerTrigiani.com](mailto:David.Mercer@MercerTrigiani.com)

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