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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mercer Honored for Volunteer Work with Attorney Substance Abuse**

**Alexandria, Virginia** (September 25, 2012) . . . David S. Mercer, a principal with MercerTrigiani law firm in Alexandria, has been selected by the Caron Foundation to receive the 2012 Caron Legal Professional Award for his contributions in combating chemical dependency in the legal profession through prevention, education or due process of the law.

Mercer has a longtime history with counseling attorneys who are experiencing substance abuse and mental illness. He is a past president and current board member with Virginia Lawyers Helping Lawyers (LHL), a statewide volunteer organization that offers free counseling to attorneys, judges and law students who have alcohol, drug or mental illness problems. In 2010, his law firm funded and produced the award-winning educational video for LHL titled, "Lawyers Helping Lawyers – A Confidential Road to Recovery."

In 2006, Mercer's volunteer service with attorneys and addiction was recognized by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* when he was elected to the charter class of "Leaders in the Law" for his leadership in improving the justice system.

"David Mercer is a pioneer in helping professionals find recovery in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For over 25 years he has served as a leader and volunteer with Virginia Lawyers Helping Lawyers which provides free confidential, non-disciplinary services to lawyers, judges, law students and their families who are struggling with addiction to alcohol and other mood-altering drugs. His work has greatly impacted the quality of services and resources available to attorneys seeking help in Virginia and throughout the country," stated Andrew J. Rothermel, executive vice president of Caron Treatment Centers and former advisory board member of the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs.

Caron Treatment Centers is a nationally recognized non-profit provider of alcohol and drug addiction treatment. The Caron Foundation will present the award during the organization's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Metropolitan Area Community Service Awards event scheduled on Friday, Oct 26.

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## **About MercerTrigiani**

MercerTrigiani is a boutique real estate law firm providing corporate, litigation and public policy legal counsel to more than 500 condominium, property owner, real estate cooperative and timeshare owner associations, real estate developers and individual owners located throughout Virginia and Washington, D.C. The firm currently serves clients at two Virginia locations - 112 South Alfred Street in Alexandria and 11 South Twelfth Street in Richmond.

For more information on MercerTrigiani or the practice of community association law, visit [www.MercerTrigiani.com](http://www.MercerTrigiani.com) or call 703/837-5000.

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