



For Immediate Release:

Friday, May 27, 2011

**Justice Initiatives, Inc. Announces Winner
of 2011 Raising the Bar Award**

Charlotte, NC - Justice Initiatives, Inc. announced Charles Keller, Jr. as the winner of the annual Raising the Bar Award for 2011. Mr. Keller is the Community Access & Outreach Administrator for the 26th Judicial District of North Carolina. Mr. Keller has worked for the Trial Court Administrator's Office for over ten years and has served in various roles. Among the accomplishments noted in his nomination were his four and a half years of exemplary performance as Jury Coordinator. In his current role, Mr. Keller was noted for his establishment of a volunteer program for the courts, his educational outreach efforts to teach children about the North Carolina court system, including the innovative Court Camp, as well as the numerous educational tours and public speaking engagements he provides to various civic and citizen groups. Also noted were his efforts for finding various volunteer opportunities for the Trial Court Administrator's Office to give back to the community, including Adopt-A-City Street, Adopt-A-Soldier, Adopt-A-Family, volunteering at numerous events at local Senior Centers, organizing clothing and sundry collections for local homeless shelters, and organizing blood drives at the courthouse.

Justice Initiatives, Inc. board member and local attorney Mark Sumwalt presented Mr. Keller with the award at the Fifth Annual Evening at the Courthouse Fundraiser on May 10th.

Each year, this award is presented to honor a court employee who has made a significant and notable contribution to the advancement of the Mecklenburg County court system. The type of contribution made can vary. It may be related to performance, leadership, innovation, advocacy, public education or some other meritorious area related to the public good. The board of directors determines the relevancy, level of importance and degree to which each contribution has made a difference. The winner receives a check for \$1000.00, a plaque in recognition of his or her accomplishment(s) and the permanent listing of their name in the registry of past winners.

**For more information regarding this news release, contact Mark Sumwalt
at (704) 377-3770 or email mark@sumwaltlaw.com**