

Contact: Mark Rutkus  
Phone: 614.645.2934  
Email: [mkrutkus@columbus.gov](mailto:mkrutkus@columbus.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## City Attorney Chief of Staff Named 'Prosecutor of the Year'

**COLUMBUS, OH**— In recognition of a legal career devoted to protecting some of the most vulnerable members of society, the Justice League of Ohio has named Bill R. Hedrick their 2014 "Models of Justice Prosecutor of the Year." Hedrick serves a dual role as Chief of Staff and First Assistant City Prosecutor for Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer Jr.

Having prosecuted over 20,000 cases during his 18 year tenure, Hedrick is well-known for raising awareness about the plight of victims and warning the public about rising crime trends.

**"I'm humbled and honored to receive this award," said Chief of Staff Bill R. Hedrick. "I want to thank Cathy Harper Lee and the Justice League of Ohio for their recognition and express my sincere gratitude to our staff and community partners who work with me every day to help support victims."**

The Justice League of Ohio honored Hedrick for his innovative contributions to criminal justice, including his widely recognized fight against animal abuse and his focus on quality-of-life issues that impact Columbus neighborhoods. Hedrick prosecuted notorious slumlord Stuart Kaplow in a case that garnered national media attention due to the unique ruling that ordered Kaplow to leave the comforts of his Bexley home and live in one of his dilapidated rental units until all his properties were brought up to code.

More recently, Hedrick prosecuted slumlord Sam Vazirani, whose violation of city building codes contributed to a tragic deadly fire at one of his properties. Hedrick secured the maximum sentence allowable under law against Vazirani. Hedrick also pushed to have Vazirani's other properties either evacuated and properly boarded up or sold to responsible owners.

**"Those who know Bill know he is dedicated to public service and tireless in his efforts to help others," said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. "He is very well-deserving of this award."**

Hedrick has been hailed for embracing alternative forms of media to combat crime. Incorporating social media, his own television program, traditional media, and community relationship-building, Hedrick has created a comprehensive network to alert the public about various crime trends while also trying to bring individuals with outstanding arrest warrants to justice.

Through these ventures, Hedrick has alerted potential victims of *Craig's List* scams, helped uncover a *Dyson* vacuum cleaner theft ring, fought to put drunk drivers and hit-and-run suspects behind bars, targeted serial thieves and graffiti vandals, and pursued Columbus' most-wanted animal abusers, including individuals associated with dog-fighting. More than 140 warrants have been served, as targeted fugitives have either been arrested, turned themselves in, or otherwise have been adjudicated.

Hedrick will be honored at the "Models of Justice" awards ceremony on April 10 at Villa Milano. Information concerning the event may be found at [www.thejusticeleagueohio.org](http://www.thejusticeleagueohio.org).

###