

**VIP Mentors
Media Alert
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**VIP MENTORS ALLIANCE WITH SECOND CHANCE/STRIVE
FEATURED AT SAN DIEGO 33RD ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON**

San Diego, CA (January 9, 2008) –VIP Mentors’ new alliance with the non-profit organization Second Chance/STRIVE will be featured at VIP San Diego’s 33rd Anniversary Awards Luncheon on January 25, 2008 at Tom Ham’s Lighthouse. Attorneys, judges, and government officials will join with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parolees and their families at the celebration. San Diego County Bar Association President Heather Rosing, California State Bar President Jeffrey Bleich, and CDCR Chief Deputy Secretary of the Juvenile Justice Division Bernard Warner will be among the honored guests in attendance. Superior Court Judge Margorie Woods will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

VIP Mentors began its San Diego County program in 1975 as a way to ease the process of reentry into society for newly released parolees. Through VIP, young parolees are matched with volunteer mentors who are local attorneys. The subsequent attorney-parolee match provides the parolee with a friend and advisor for the duration of the difficult parole period. The Awards Luncheon serves to honor all of the attorney volunteers and the parolees they mentor in the VIP program.

From 1975 until July, 2007, VIP San Diego provided attorney mentors only for parolees of the CDCR Division of Juvenile Justice. That changed last year when VIP entered into a partnership with Second Chance/STRIVE to offer VIP mentors to adult parolees who graduate from Second Chance’s monthly Job Readiness classes. The results of this new alliance have been exceptional. The VIP event will showcase the tremendous progress these men and women are making as they get their lives headed in a positive direction, with a helping hand from VIP attorney mentors who are assisting them in becoming self-sufficient and self-respecting members of the community.

Several Second Chance participants will be recognized at the luncheon. Also receiving awards will be VIP mentor Steve Wingfield, a family law attorney in private practice and his parolee mentee, who is an honor student at Grossmont College and a recipient of a scholarship through VIP’s “Matthew Willer Scholarship Fund.” Steve has mentored eight parolees since first volunteering with VIP in 1999.

Outstanding New Match awards will be presented to attorney David Loy and his mentee, Miguel Carmona, and to attorney Landy Spencer and her mentee, Jason Haugen-Britton. Miguel, a student at Mira Costa College, is also a recipient of a scholarship from VIP.

VIP is always looking for additional attorneys willing to volunteer as mentors for young people on parole or to be pen pals to young men and women who are still incarcerated. For more information please call Jim Pauley, VIP Program Director at (619) 220-5348 or email vip-sandiego@mindspring.com. Additional information about VIP Mentors can be found at <http://www.vipmentors.org>.

The VIP Mentors Annual Awards Luncheon will be held at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Harbor Island on Friday, January 25, 2008 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. For press attendance at the event, please contact Megan Morrow, VIP Mentors Media Relations, at 510-333-0324 or email megavents@earthlink.net.

About VIP Mentors

Founded in 1972, **VIP Mentors (VIP)** has successfully matched thousands of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parolees with attorney mentors who act as friends, advisors and role models. VIP combines the humanitarian goal of repairing lives with the social and economic benefits of building better and safer communities. Without mentors, most parolees end up trapped again in a new cycle of crime. VIP's parolees have success rates of 70% or higher and make progress toward their goals of worthwhile jobs, relevant education and healthier families. By reducing recidivism, VIP saves taxpayers millions of dollars in imprisonment costs. VIP operates 13 local programs statewide and is endorsed by the State Bar of California.

About Second Chance/STRIVE

Second Chance is a non-profit agency in San Diego established in 1993 to help the homeless and chronically unemployed with jobs, housing and life skills. The agency has developed a national reputation in the field of workforce development, with a focus on the hardest-to-serve unemployed/underemployed population. It is the only agency in San Diego to operate the nationally-recognized STRIVE job readiness program, which creates unmatched outcomes of success in helping the chronically unemployed and homeless to secure jobs and establish self-sufficiency.

For more information on Second Chance, please call 619-234-8888 or visit <http://www.secondchanceprogram.org>.