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Empire State Capital Area Chapter
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ROEST, (DAY) LEDERMAN, LEAK, AND LARA TO RECEIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AWARDS

*Empire State Capital Area Chapter of the American Society for Public
Administration to Present Awards at Annual Spring Institute on April 9th.*

ALBANY, NY – March 25, 2008 – The Empire State Capital Area Chapter (ESCAC) of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), the nation's most respected society representing all forums in the public service arena, today announced the recipients of its four most prestigious awards to be presented at its annual ASPA Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany.

Anne Roest, Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Justice Information Systems at the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Alfred E. Smith Award; Julia B. (Day) Lederman, Regional Director for the NYS Division of Human Rights, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Charles Evan Hughes Award; Frank A. Leak, Mayor of the Village of Colonie, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Frank C. Moore Award; and David Lara of the Governor's Office of Federal Affairs has been selected as this year's recipient of the New Administrator Award. "We commend Ms. Roest, Ms. Day, Mr. Leak, and Mr. Lara for their dedication and service to the people of New York State," said Brian S. Cechnicki, Awards Committee Chair of the local chapter of ASPA. "This recognition is a testament to their hard work and accomplishments and an acknowledgement of their contributions." Michael N. Christakis, Ph.D., President of the Empire State Capital Area Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, added that "these nominees represent the best that New York has to offer, and illustrate just how important public service can be for the well being of all citizens."

The Alfred E. Smith Award is presented in recognition of outstanding service or initiative by an individual, which may consist of a singular accomplishment, and who has exemplified superior management and administration within New York State. Denise O'Donnell, Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services, in her nomination of Ms. Roest, remarked that "[d]ue to the efforts of Ms. Roest, New York will be able to seamlessly continue the processing of fingerprints in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack. The significance of this accomplishment is that it has made New York safer."

Ms. Roest has been a career civil servant since 1986, where she started out at the Department of Taxation and Finance. In her 11 years at the Department, she was promoted to multiple leadership positions, and was responsible for overseeing an information technology staff of over 400 and directed the modernization of the Department's IT infrastructure. In 2005 Ms. Roest came to the Division of Criminal Justice Services, where she is Deputy Commissioner and Chief Information Officer.

The Charles Evans Hughes Award is presented in recognition of outstanding service by an individual who has exemplified superior management and administration within New York State over an extended period of time. Julia (Day) Lederman has worked for the New York State Division for Human Rights for 30 years, where she is currently the Division's Regional Director in Rochester. Commissioner Kumiki Gibson states that Ms. Day has "dedicated her entire adult life to protecting and furthering the civil rights of all New Yorkers. This commitment to civil rights and the to rights and needs of New Yorkers has contributed greatly to eradicating and preventing discrimination and to improving the lives of New Yorkers, many of whom have been neglected or abused by society at large."

Ms. Day began her career at the Division of Human Rights as an investigator, quickly gaining praise for not only her investigative skills and treatment of people involved in the complaints, but also for her community outreach efforts. As she advanced over the years, her training and mentoring of new investigators was critical to the enforcement of the New York State Human Rights Law—the first anti-discrimination law in the country. In 2005 Ms. Day was appointed Regional Director, where she continues to be an advocate for civil rights, inspiring her workforce, and developing partnerships with community organizations that are vital to the Division of Human Right's mission.

The Frank C. Moore Award is presented in recognition of outstanding service by an individual who has exemplified superior management and administration within local government. Assemblyman Robert Reilly of Clifton Park nominated Frank A. Leak, Mayor of the Village of Colonie for this award. Assemblyman Reilly credits him with 28 years of outstanding service to the village of Colonie, both as a trustee and as Mayor.

Mr. Leak has provided invaluable service over the years, working towards goals such as improving the Colonie Fire Company facilities; the reconstruction and remodeling of the Central Avenue Family Outreach, a facility that caters to families and teens; and the construction and complete of the Cook Park Amphitheatre, which now bears his name. His latest project was a \$400,000 expansion of the Senior Citizen's Center. In his spare time, Mr. Leak finds time to volunteer for various athletic leagues and the Boy Scouts of America, as well as taking an active role in Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

The New Administrator Award is presented in recognition of for outstanding service by an individual who has exemplified superior management and administration within New York State and who has contributed significantly to the resolution of a major governmental problem, to the development of a major governmental program, or that has effected major economies and/or efficiencies in the governmental process and has with less than ten years of public service. Of David Lara, New York State Budget Director Laura Anglin said this: "David has a remarkable knack for visualizing the health care playing field...not only understands the issues, but is able to present complicated material in a comprehensible and accessible manner."

Mr. Lara is a graduate of the University of Washington and the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. In his early career he worked on youth and minority issues, focusing on empowerment of disadvantaged students. Mr. Lara joined the New York State Division of the Budget in 2005 as part of the prestigious Carey Fellow program, and quickly became a key player in health care policy in New York State.

Ms. Roest, Ms. Day, Mr. Leak, and Mr. Lara will be presented their awards at the annual ASPA Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at the Desmond Americana Hotel, this year as part of ASPA's Spring Institute, "Developing the Upstate Economy: Infrastructure, Incentives and Innovations."

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