



International Association of Special Investigation Units
Virginia Chapter
P.O. Box 1527
Midlothian, VA 23113

CONTACT: Pam Jewell
804-674-2777
Pamela.jewell@vsp.virginia.gov
804-840-1585 (cell)

For Immediate Release

**NATIONWIDE INSURANCE SIU DIRECTOR
RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

RICHMOND, Va. – The Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Special Investigation Units (VA IASIU) has awarded its prestigious Robert J. Covington Distinguished Service Award to Wade Wickre, Special Investigation Unit (SIU) director for Nationwide Insurance. The Covington Award recognizes an individual's contributions to the insurance industry, their insurance company, the community and the VA IASIU.



Jerry Altieri, past president and current director of the VA IASIU, presents Wade Wickre with the prestigious Covington Award.

"I am very pleased to present this award to Wade in recognition of his outstanding leadership and commitment in the fight against insurance fraud," said Jerry Altieri, past president and current Director of the VA IASIU. "Wade has set an example of the dedication and drive needed to grow the IASIU into a more successful organization that provides first class training and partnering opportunities for its industry and law enforcement members."

Wickre has been a leader in anti-fraud training and networking his entire career. As one of the founding members of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Fraud Investigators in 1992, he helped lay the foundation for what would eventually become the Virginia Chapter of the IASIU. He has held leadership roles in the in the VA IASIU serving as treasurer, vice-president and president.

During this time, Wickre worked tirelessly to help pursue a potential fraud statute in Virginia. Although failing to pass, his efforts led to increased awareness of insurance fraud and to the development of the Virginia State Police Insurance Fraud Program.

Even though Wickre is no longer involved directly with the VA IASIU due to his promotion and transfer, he continues to foster positive relationships within the SIU community, as well as with law enforcement. Wickre's dedication to the IASIU has led to increased recognition of the value of the IASIU within his company and the insurance industry.

The Covington Award was presented to Wickre during the VA IASIU annual fraud seminar held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center in Richmond, May 12. The award was named for Robert J. Covington, an associate vice president for Virginia Mutual Insurance, in honor of his service and work with the VAIASIU. He was instrumental in the formation of the VAIASIU and remained active in the organization until his death in 1998.

Founded in 1992, the VA IASIU is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a coordinated effort within the industry to combat insurance fraud; providing education and training for insurance investigators; developing greater awareness of the insurance fraud problem; encouraging high professional standards of conduct among insurance investigators; and supporting legislation that acts as a deterrent to the crime of insurance fraud. For more information, go to www.vaiaiu.com.

#