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For Immediate Release

Rothgeb Recognized as 2010 Virginia Insurance Investigator of the Year

RICHMOND, VA. -- The Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Association of Special Investigation Units (VA IASIU) has recognized Lee Rothgeb, Allstate Insurance Company, as Investigator of the Year for his efforts in bringing an end to a "jump-in" injury fraud ring operating out of northern Virginia.



Mike Burton, co-chair of the VA IASIU Awards Committee presents the Lee Rothgeb with the Investigator of the Year Award.

"Lee's involvement in this injury fraud ring was exceptional in that he was not only instrumental in coordinating efforts with other SIU Investigators and the NICB," noted Mike Burton, co-chairman of the VA IASIU Awards Committee. "He is also credited as being the responsible party who brought this issue to the attention of the FBI."

Rothgeb worked a suspicious case for Allstate Insurance, which eventually denied the claims associated with the three "jump-in" suspects because of inconsistencies in interviews with the people involved. He also made a referral to the Insurance Fraud Program with the Virginia State Police and to National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

Due to Rothgeb's involvement with the FBI on a Medical Fraud Task Force, the FBI took an interest in the case and conducted a criminal investigation. Following interviews with the adult claimants, Rothgeb was able to provide the FBI with information related to their identities, which led to the discovery that all entered the United States illegally.

The FBI, Virginia State Police, Immigration Customs Enforcement and Alexandria Police Department were able to locate and arrest the three suspects. Federal charges were filed, which included Fraud against Insurance Providers, Mail Fraud Attempt and Conspiracy Fraud.

Rothgeb continued to work with the FBI and the US Attorney's Office in Alexandria, and was instrumental in assisting them in building their case. As a result of Rothgeb's efforts in assisting the FBI with this case, the three defendants entered into a plea bargain in exchange for signing deportation agreements. Once the perpetrators complete their sentences, all parties will be deported.

Founded in 1992, the VAIASIU 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.

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