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PRESS RELEASE

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ADA Paul A. Capofari to Receive 2008 Thomas E. Dewey Medal

******Supreme Court Bureau Chief to Receive 4th Annual Award for Outstanding Prosecutors at Ceremony to be Held at New York City Bar Association******

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced that Assistant District Attorney Paul A. Capofari, Chief of the Supreme Court Bureau, would be the Richmond County recipient of the 2008 Thomas E. Dewey Medal at a ceremony to be held Tuesday evening at the Manhattan offices of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. The Thomas E. Dewey Medal, sponsored by the law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, is awarded annually to one outstanding Assistant District Attorney in each of New York City's five counties.

District Attorney Donovan, who nominated ADA Capofari for the award, stated, "Paul Capofari has had a remarkable career in public service, both as an officer in the United States Army, and later, as a prosecutor for the people of Staten Island. In his time as a prosecutor, serving the people of his hometown, Paul has been not only a dedicated prosecutor of countless difficult cases, but a mentor to dozens of young Assistant District Attorneys."

Assistant District Attorney Capofari stated, "I am honored to receive this prestigious award, named after one of New York's greatest prosecutors. I have to express gratitude to my family, especially my wife Ellen, for their love and support. I'd also like to thank my two bosses, District Attorney Dan Donovan and Executive ADA Tim Koller, for their leadership and guidance."

Paul A. Capofari, a native Staten Islander, graduated from the United States Military Academy (West Point) in 1972 as a commissioned officer and later became a member of the prestigious Army Rangers. While serving his county, he was selected to enter the Army's legal education program and earned his J.D. from New York Law School, where he graduated *cum laude*. Upon completion of his legal studies he joined the Judge Advocate General's Corps, working throughout the country.

While at the Pentagon, ADA Capofari authored the Army AIDS policy and was later assigned to the Office of the White House Counsel during the Iran-Contra investigation where he worked on the Classified Information Procedures Act. Following his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, ADA Capofari was assigned to West Point where he taught courses in legal studies until his retirement from the service in 1993. Following his retirement, ADA Capofari returned to his native Staten Island where he was appointed an Assistant District Attorney in 1993.

As an Assistant District Attorney, Paul A. Capofari quickly rose through the ranks as a prosecutor on a number of

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complex and high-profile cases. Among his most notable prosecutions are: *People v. Papapietro*, involving a drug ring which was accused of trafficking one-third of all the cocaine entering the borough each year; and, *People v. DiRubbio & Merolle*, in which two police officers were convicted of official misconduct and terminated from the NYPD for their roles

in the “Untouchables” car theft ring. Additionally, ADA Capofari obtained the noteworthy conviction, the first of its kind in New York, of a local home builder who ordered immigrant laborers to work in a 15-foot un-shored trench, which later collapsed, killing one of the workers.

In 2003, ADA Capofari was assigned as the lead counsel in the prosecution of Ronell Wilson, and others, for their roles in the assassination of NYPD Detectives James Nemorin and Rodney Andrews during an undercover firearm “buy and bust” on Staten Island. Although the case against Ronell Wilson was later prosecuted by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District, ADA Capofari’s work in the immediate aftermath of the murders played an instrumental role in Wilson’s eventual conviction at trial.

In his current capacity as Supreme Court Bureau Chief, ADA Capofari supervises a number of ADAs who prosecute shootings, burglary, robbery and narcotics offenses.

The Medal was first awarded on November 29, 2005. The first Richmond County recipient was Executive Assistant District Attorney Timothy J. Koller. The 2006 and 2007 recipients were ADA Yolanda L. Rudich, Chief of the Sex Crimes Special Victims Bureau and ADA Mario F. Mattei, Chief of the Investigations Bureau.

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District Attorney Donovan congratulates Assistant District Attorney Paul A. Capofari on receiving the 2008 Thomas E. Dewey Medal for Richmond County