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Spelling Bee creates buzz in legal community, raises funds for literacy

Orlando, Fla. (September 7, 2011) — What do you get when you combine a group of lawyers with a longstanding corporate spelling bee? You get a very grown-up competition of legal professionals vying to become the Spelling Bee Champion of the Year while raising essential funds for literacy.

The Young Lawyers Section of the Orange County Bar Association will present the 2nd Annual Lawyers for Literacy Spelling Bee on October 20, 2011 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Downtown Hotel, 60 South Ivanhoe Boulevard, FL 32804. The event begins at 6 p.m. and includes great food, a cash bar and lucky prize drawings. Individual tickets are \$100. Honey Bee and ABC sponsorships are still available.

The spelling bee raises awareness and funds for the Adult Literacy League, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides literacy services and information in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. Proceeds from the event will benefit the 600+ adult learners currently enrolled in one-to-one tutoring and classes at the Adult Literacy League. The funds will also be used to purchase books and learning materials for low-income preschool children enrolled in the *Read to Me!* family literacy program.

The spelling bee was the only fundraiser for the Adult Literacy League for 10 years. Last year, a group of young attorneys added their own spin to the bee to raise awareness of adult and family literacy in the legal community. They created the Lawyers for Literacy Spelling Bee where a team of two players compete and at least one of the members must be an attorney. The event was a huge hit, attracting over 100 legal professionals in Central Florida and raising more than \$15,000 for literacy.

This year's spelling bee is expected to be an even bigger success with 17 teams already committed to play. They include attorneys from Orlando's top businesses and law firms including Fisher Rushmer et al., Akerman Senterfitt, Holland & Knight, City of Orlando, Winderweedle Haines et al., Lowndes Drosdick et al., Killgore Pearlman et al. and SeaWorld.

Guest emcee is Mayanne Downs, City Attorney and past president of The Florida Bar. For ticket & sponsorship information, visit www.adulteracyleague.org or call 407-422-1540.

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The Adult Literacy League is the premier provider of literacy services and information in Central Florida. For 43 years, League has taught thousands of adults to read, write and communicate better in English. The organization provides one-to-one tutoring, classes and family literacy programs in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties. Last year, the League served 1,400 adult learners and over 300 low-income preschool children through its adult and family literacy programs.

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