



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES INTERNSHIP

OPPORTUNITY & BETHPAGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR LATINO AMERICAN LAW STUDENTS

Bethpage, New York - March 12, 2012 – Bethpage Federal Credit Union, along with Suffolk County District Attorney Division Chief Edward Heilig, the Vice President of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association Dave Mejias and representatives from Touro Law School have announced a new summer internship opportunity for Latino American law students as part of the proactive outreach for Latino American representation in law enforcement. Heilig also announced the generous donation by Bethpage Federal Credit Union to the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association to aid the Latino American students.

“I’d like to thank Bethpage Federal Credit Union for exemplifying what genuine corporate citizenship means by providing these funds, through the Hispanic Bar Association, to two deserving Hispanic law students. Both students will, I assure you, work very hard this summer as they learn firsthand what it is we do as prosecutors and what our responsibilities are in protecting the integrity of the criminal justice system. Our interns accompany our ADA’s working on cases, they’ll meet and work with police officers, witnesses, detective-investigators, defense attorneys, and crime lab personnel; in short, they’ll become familiar with all facets of the job,” stated Suffolk County District Attorney Division Chief Edward Heilig.

The donation will be divided evenly and awarded to two Latino American Touro Law students to be chosen in April to participate in a non-paid summer internship at the offices of the Suffolk County District Attorney. The funds will be used to supplement the students’ income allowing them to devote their time to hands-on experiences interning at the District Attorney’s office will provide. Without the donation, the students will have to obtain full-time employment outside of the field of law during the summer to financially assist their families.

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Bethpage Awards Latino Student Stipends

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“With high tuition rates, internships become difficult for graduate students because they need to cover basic expenses,” said Linda Armyn, SVP Corporate Strategy Bethpage Federal Credit Union. We are proud to provide these stipends so the law students can gain this valuable experience before they enter the workplace.”

“I am grateful for the District Attorney’s commitment to build a better relationship between the Latino community and law enforcement. The internship program and generous donation by Bethpage will provide two deserving law students the essential opportunity of learning law enforcement skills in the field when they may not otherwise be able to do so. Hopefully this program will result in greater Latino representation in law enforcement,” stated Long Island Hispanic Bar Association Vice President, Dave Mejias.

The two Touro Law students will be chosen by Touro Law School’s competitive fellowship process by a committee of faculty and administrators. Students who meet the criteria to qualify for the scholarship will fill out an application, including an essay on why they are interested in the internship. The summer internship program at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office will begin May 2012.

Bethpage Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative, existing solely to serve its members and has experienced rapid growth in recent years to become a strong alternative to banks. Bethpage was approved for the largest federal community charter in the U.S. in 2003 and now is Long Island's largest credit union and leading community financial institution with over 196,000 members, 26 branches and 60 shared service center locations throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties. As a financial cooperative, Bethpage offers better rates, lower fees and a full menu of personal and commercial financial services.

Bethpage maintains branch locations in Bay Shore, Bay Shore King Kullen, Bethpage, Central Islip, Commack King Kullen, Elmont, Farmingdale, Freeport, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Huntington, Levittown King Kullen, Lynbrook, Massapequa, Melville, Mineola, North Babylon, Patchogue, Port Jefferson, Riverhead, Seaford, Smithtown, Roosevelt, West Babylon and Westbury with over 350 surcharge-free ATMs in King Kullen, 7-Eleven, Walgreens and Costco locations throughout Long Island. For more information, call 1-800-628-7070 or visit www.lovebethpage.com.

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