



\$30,000 Cy Press Award Given to Legal Aid

The Legal Aid Bureau was the recipient of a \$30,000 cy press award presented by a legal firm handling a class suit against a car dealer.

([PRWEB](#)) February 23, 2005 -- The Legal Aid Bureau was the recipient of a \$30,000 cy press award presented by a legal firm handling a class suit against a car dealer. The cy press ("as near as") award was presented to the Executive Director of Legal Aid as approved by the court in recognition of its work on behalf of the consumers in Maryland to safeguard them from predatory practices. The amount of \$30,000 was leftover from a \$2.6 million class action suit filed against a car dealer overcharging its customers on tax, title, and registration fees. The court had found the car dealer overcharging its customers an average of \$50.

The cy press awards are based on a legal theory that allows the courts to put the remaining class actions funds to their "next best use" to support and benefit the class members. It works on the premise that not all class members will be located, or that damages may not be awarded to all injured victims. Hence, the courts are allowed to approve a charitable donation out of the unclaimed residue, or a direct grant to any entity that would uplift and vindicate class member rights in the future. This approach avoids any windfall to the defendant. In recent years, courts have awarded cy press to help fund programs that provide free legal services to low-income persons. Many have agreed on donations based on the public interest work that the program performs.

The Legal Aid has this to say on the cy press award, "The cy press awards provide ways to level the economic playing field. We rid the economy of bad practices and gain resources in the form of cy press awards, which are then utilized for those who otherwise wouldn't have access to justice."

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**Contact Information**

Anna Capili

ATTORNEY SERVICES

<http://www.attorneyservicesetc.com>

310 575 4440

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