**Safe Alliance Announces “Commitment to Justice” Award Winners**

**Charlotte** – Safe Alliance proudly announces the 2015 “Commitment to Justice” awards recognizing the work of members of the local legal community that embrace our mission of providing hope and healing to people in crisis.

These awards honor law firms and individuals who have donated their valuable time to our Legal Representation Project (LRP) that provides free legal representation to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault seeking protective orders. LRP attorneys are there for families that require legal assistance and support at perhaps the most desperate and frightening time in their lives.

“Without effective legal representation, many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault risk being re-traumatized by a complex legal system that they must navigate to protect themselves and their children,” said Safe Alliance Chief Legal Officer Laura Lawrence. “These selfless lawyers truly change lives for the better and we are honored by their expertise and support. With the ever-rising number of sexual assault and domestic violence cases that cross our desk at Safe Alliance, the work of our Legal Representation Project is more crucial than ever.”

These law firms were presented with the “Commitment to Justice” Awards at the second annual Barrister’s Ball held at the Mint Uptown on April 16, 2015:

**Moore & VanAllen PLLC**

**Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo LLP**

**Miller Bowles Law**

**Passenant & Shearin Law**

**Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP**

**Kennedy Law Associates**

**McGuire Woods LLP**

**Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP**

These attorneys were presented with the “Commitment to Justice” awards:

**Adebola V. Lamikanra, Brett C. Holladay, Becky K. Lindahl, Simone A. Williams, Kara N. Bitar, Sheila G. Passenant, Mary Claire Brown, Kimberly N. Cochran, Christopher D. Miller, Steven B. Ockerman, Stephen M. Corby, Bethany A. Corbin, Ashley Nicole Bonomini, Cindi Hastings, Ali B. Miller, Mindy L. Vervais, Richard W. Barnes, Jr., Kristen F. Shearin and Holly M. Stott.**

Safe Alliance extends our sincere appreciation to these firms and individual practitioners that are working directly with clients as they transition from violent situations to safety.

For more information about the work of Safe Alliance and our Legal Representation Project, please contact Chief Legal Officer Laura Lawrence at Laura.Lawrence@safealliance.org or Director of Donor and Corporate Relations Savannah Smith at Savannah.smith@safealliance.org

**Safe Alliance**

Safe Alliance supports victims of domestic and sexual violence, and child abuse and helps people build safe, healthy relationships. We do this through a continuum of shelter, counseling, legal and advocacy services assisting over 20,000 people a year in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union and south Iredell counties while reaching 20,000 more through advocacy and education.

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