We are sad to announce that Donald Muccigrosso, who worked at the OAAP from 1982 until he retired in 1999, passed away on April 4, 2012. Don founded the alcohol and chemical dependency assistance program for Oregon lawyers by persuading the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors to allow him to start a support group for recovering lawyers. The group initially met at a local restaurant. Within a short period of time, the Professional Liability Fund’s first CEO, Lester Rawls, hired Don to provide assistance to lawyers as part of the PLF’s loss prevention efforts. The program flourished and became known as the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program.

Don worked for the OAAP for over 17 years, during which time he helped hundreds of lawyers into recovery, often saving the lives, careers, and families of those he assisted. In addition, Don was a powerful advocate for lawyer assistance programs around the nation, serving on the American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs from 1991 to 1994, and continuing thereafter to work as an advisor for the Commission. In 1997, he was honored by the Commission with the Award of Merit. When Don retired and moved to Montana, his dedication to the cause of recovery did not stop, and he continued his work spreading the message of recovery.

We are forever grateful for Don’s extensive contributions and for all the help he has given to those who suffer from alcoholism. He leaves a huge legacy that we are honored to continue at the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program. He will be greatly missed and not forgotten.

THE DONALD MUCCIGROSSO MEMORIAL GRANT FOR TREATMENT OF ALCOHOLISM

In honor of the vast contribution Donald Muccigrosso made to the legal profession and the recovery community, the Oregon Lawyer Assistance Foundation (OLAF) has established a grant in Don’s memory. The Donald Muccigrosso Memorial Grant will provide funds for treatment to lawyers who otherwise would not be able to obtain the addiction treatment they need.

OLAF is a 501(c)(3) corporation. For more information, contact David Culpepper, 503-416-6146, or Barbara Fishleder, 503-684-7425, barbaraf@oaap.org, or go to www.oaap.org and click on OLAF.