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Los Angeles Organizing Awards and Office Depot Assemble On Time to Celebrate People, Products and Services

– Award Presenters from “Real Simple. Real Life.”, “Extreme Makeover”, “MISSION: Organization”, “Dr. Phil”, and “Clean House” joined celebrity host and comedian Hal Sparks “Talk Soup”, “Queer as Folk” onstage at the Fourth Annual Los Angeles Organizing Awards, Friday January 30th in Bel Air, California. –

Los Angeles, CA (January 31, 2009) – Top organizing experts and celebrity presenters Sam Saboura, “Extreme Makeover”; Gia Russo and Jodie Watson, “Real Simple. Real Life.”; Dorothy Breininger, “Dr. Phil”; Linda Koopersmith, “Clean House”; Monica Ricci, “MISSION: Organization” and actor/green advocate Christopher Knight “The Brady Bunch”, VH1’s “My Fair Brady” scheduled time to celebrate at this year’s Fourth Annual Los Angeles Organizing Awards at the Luxe Hotel Sunset Boulevard, Bel Air, California.

Celebrity organizers, industry professionals and members of the public assembled at the January 30th gala, which was hosted by comedian and actor Hal Sparks, “Talk Soup,” “Queer As Folk”. Throughout the evening, Sparks humorously shared his personal experiences of working with professional organizers.

The Organizing Awards, produced by the Los Angeles chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO-LA) along with Presenting Sponsor Office Depot, honors the best in the organizing industry, including professional organizers who set the standard for home and business productivity, and the products and services that help consumers and businesses organize everything from information to time management and control habits that lead to clutter and chaos.

The red carpet gala event was a celebration and culmination of national “Get Organized Month,” which is every January.

NAPO-Los Angeles - Host of the Los Angeles Organizing Awards

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A total of twenty awards were given - seven awards for organizing products and retailers, five awards for organizing services, five awards to organizing professionals and two awards to media outlets. Finalists were selected during a two-month nationwide online popular vote at www.organizingawards.com that ended December 31st.

Office Depot Special Recognition Award:

Organization Expert Monica Ricci, appearing on behalf of Office Depot, presented the “2009 Office Depot Special Recognition Award” to best-selling author, business leader and personal productivity pioneer, Stephen R. Covey, who prepared a special taped message for the audience. In her remarks from the stage, Ricci said of Covey, “As an internationally respected leadership authority... [Stephen Covey’s] advice has given insight to millions. His books have become required reading for not only the public, but for members of the professional organizing industry. Office Depot has worked with FranklinCovey for years to provide quality organizational products and business tools to customers around the world. It is for these contributions that Office Depot and NAPO Los Angeles recognize Stephen Covey...”

Other Attendees:

Other industry leaders in attendance included NAPO Founder s Ann Gambrell and Beverly Clower; Standolyn Robertson, President of NAPO National; Kit Anderson, President of the National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization (NSGCD); and David Bertnick, President of the International Association for Private Service Professionals (IAPSP). The Awards attracted guests from thirteen states including: Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, New Mexico, Washington, California, Virginia, North Carolina, Kansas and Illinois and included current NAPO Chapter Presidents from Miami, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Finalists:

A list of all finalists will be provided under separate release. Results may also be viewed online at <http://www.organizingawards.com>.

Entertainment Highlights:

Other highlights of the night included music by "The Monk Institute" Jazz trio, a live performance by “Confessions of a Clutterholic” songwriter Lois Morton and “The Year in Review“, a video montage, with segments submitted by professional organizers throughout the United States.

Credits, Sponsors and Gift Bags:

A portion of proceeds from ticket sales and sponsorships will benefit NAPO-in-the-Schools, a national community outreach program that brings basic organizing principals to students in all grade levels. The Awards’ were produced by NAPO-LA with production support by the Dave Linden Group, Inc. Office Depot was Presenting Sponsor. Additional sponsorship support was provided by Green Plug. Event video produced by Corp Shorts and hosted by KNBC/KCAL news reporter and anchor, Angie Crouch.

All guests received gift bags in Office Depot “green” recycled bags, which were filled with essential organizing supplies from top brands including 3M, Post-It and Sharpie. The gift bags also contained items from Artzy Cookies, A Simple Plan Consulting, Bongo Ties, Closet Factory, Esselte, Gulf Coast Space Savers, Inc., Mabel’s Labels, Inc., May Fair Lane, Mehta Family Healthcare, Office Depot, Organize.com, Premiere Label Water Company, Real Simple, Recipe Relish, SGRO Consulting, and The Container Store.

Members of the 2009 Los Organizing Awards Committee included: Heidi Chianta, Claire Flannery, Karen Fulks, Heather Furlong, Christie Gelsomino, Abbey Keusch, Dolores Kaytes, Katherine Macey, Kristine Oller, John Trosko, Linda Levine-Quackenbush, Jodie Watson and Fay Wolf.

About Office Depot, Presenting Sponsor:

Every day, Office Depot is Taking Care of Business for millions of customers around the globe. For the local corner store as well as Fortune 500 companies, Office Depot provides products and services to its customers through 1,705 worldwide retail stores, a dedicated sales force, top-rated catalogs and a \$4.9 billion e-commerce operation. Office Depot has annual sales of approximately \$15.1 billion, and employs about 49,000 associates around the world. The Company provides more office products and services to more customers in more countries than any other company, and currently sells to customers directly or through affiliates in 48 countries.

Office Depot's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ODP and is included in the S&P 500 Index. Additional press information can be found at: <http://mediarelations.officedepot.com>.

About NAPO-Los Angeles:

NAPO Los Angeles is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to developing, leading and promoting professional organizers and the benefits of better home and business organization. The founding chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers, "The Organizing Authority[®]," NAPO-LA provides members with a forum for networking, professional development and raising public awareness since 1985. The chapter produces the Los Angeles Organizing Expo as well as the Los Angeles Organizing Awards and is the recipient of the 2008 NAPO National President's Award for innovative contributions to the organizing industry. For details visit <http://www.napola.org> or <http://www.organizingawards.com>

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