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LES Foundation and LES (USA & Canada) Present Thomas Picone, Ph.D., with the Frank Barnes Mentor Award

CHICAGO, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010 – The LES Foundation and the Licensing Executives Society (U.S.A. & Canada), Inc., presented Thomas Picone, Ph.D., with the prestigious Frank Barnes Mentor Award during its Annual Meeting today.

Now in its 10th year, the Frank Barnes Mentor Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of licensing through their professional mentorship.

"Frank Barnes himself mentored Tom Picone and I know he would be deeply gratified to see what an exceptional leader and LES mentor Tom has proven to be," said Walter Copan, LES Regional Vice President USA. "Tom has given a tremendous amount back to the licensing community making him a most worthy recipient of this award."

Dr. Picone is a Certified Licensing Professional with over 30 years of pharmaceutical experience. Prior to joining Merck, formerly Schering Plough, Picone worked for Oxford Bioscience where he served as Entrepreneur-In-Residence. He also worked as Vice President for Global Licensing at Pharmacia and spent 18 years of his career at Abbott Laboratories in R&D and business development.

Dr. Picone received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Biology from St. Michaels College in Burlington, Vt., his Master of Arts degree in Psychology and Neuroscience from the University of Hartford, Conn., and his Ph.D., in Biochemistry from the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

He is Past President of LES (USA & Canada) Inc., having served as the Chairman of the HealthCare Sector from 2000 to 2001. He lives in Basking Ridge, New Jersey with his wife Claire. The Picones have three children, Michael who works for Johnson & Johnson, Katie who works for Merck and Bob who is an MBA/MILR graduate student at Cornell.

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The non-profit LES Foundation was established by the Licensing Executives Society (U.S.A & Canada), Inc., in 2000 to increase public awareness and understanding of the licensing of intellectual property rights and to communicate the critical role licensing plays in bringing creativity and innovation to commercial realization. Visit www.lesfoundation.org