

## **Paul R. Greenwood, Deputy DA Honored for Helping to Protect the Construction Industry!**

The Construction Industry Legislative Council (CILC) was pleased to honor Paul Greenwood, Deputy DA for San Diego on March 18, for his passion and dedication in protecting the integrity of the construction industry, the elderly and consumers who have been victimized by unscrupulous individuals in construction related schemes. Many of these individuals prey on the elderly.

Mr. Greenwood has pioneered charging residential burglary, a felony, against unlicensed contractors who take money from unsuspecting individuals in their homes. In the last year he was instrumental in helping the California State License Board and California Attorney General's Office severely curtail the activities of a multi-state service and repair firm. The resulting litigation for unfair business practices resulted in a 3 million dollar judgment against that firm.

"I am honored to be recognized for the work in which I passionately believe - that of pursuing justice for seniors and seeking to hold those accountable who prey upon elders" said Mr. Greenwood. "As our population ages, the elderly are increasingly being targeted as potential victims, and elder abuse is becoming one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation. Often these unscrupulous individuals pose as licensed contractors in order to gain legitimacy and the homeowner's trust. I encourage the public to be more assertive when choosing a contractor and make full use of their local Better Business Bureau and State licensing agency to check on credentials and any history of complaints against the particular contractor."

"We're pleased to honor Mr. Greenwood for his hard work in protecting the integrity of our industry," said Julie Trost, President of the CILC. "Sadly these dishonest people give our industry a bad reputation. Some of these cases might not have occurred, if the person had just asked if the person was licensed. Paul is working hard to pass laws that protect the general public, punish crooked and deceitful behavior and to communicate to the community the importance of asking questions before hiring anyone. If they have a license, you know that they have met the basic skills needed to obtain their license. Also, through the CSLB, the public can verify the contractor's license, review his/her workers compensation and any pending or prior legal action. There is a reason that many of these individuals don't have a license."

Mr. Greenwood received his Bachelor of Laws in England in 1973 and was admitted to the California Bar in 1991. He has previously served as a legal consultant to the BBC in London, worked as a barrister and then a solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales from 1981 to 1991. He has worked for the San Diego District Attorney's office since 1993.

The Contractors State License Board CSLB helps protect the public by licensing and regulating California's construction industry. In addition to educating contractors and the public about construction law, the CSLB administers exams, investigates claims, issues licenses and seeks punishment for violators. Consumers can check the status of any construction contractor's license by going to [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or by calling the Board's toll-free telephone number at 1-800-321-CSLB (2752).

The Construction Industry Legislative Council (CILC) is a consortium of trade associations working to provide legislative advocacy and regulatory analysis to its member associations. The CILC has worked hard to protect consumers and the construction industry by helping to promote hiring a licensed contractor. For more information about the CILC please call 916-7--25-3351.