

INVESTOR PROTECTION TRUST GETS HIGHEST HONOR FROM COUNCIL OF BETTER BUSINESS BUREAUS

International Torch Award for Consumer Leadership Goes to IPT President and CEO Don Blandin

WASHINGTON, D.C.//March 3, 2011//The Council of Better Business Bureaus has bestowed its highest honor – the International Torch Award -- on Investor Protection Trust (IPT) President and CEO Don Blandin.

This year's BBB Torch Awards theme – 'a salute to our troops and their families' – promotes the BBB Military Line Program, which makes a difference in the lives of thousands of military families by providing financial education and support services to address the specific financial concerns they face. Many of the award recipients are being honored especially for products or programs that benefit the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families.

IPT President and CEO Don Blandin said: "I accept the BBB Torch Award on behalf of everyone at IPT, and especially our trustees and other state securities regulators. The Trust is a major supporter of BBB's financial education initiative for the men and women of the U.S. military and the creator of the centerpiece of that campaign, "Personal Finance Guide for Military Families." This Award means a great deal to our organization and to me personally. It highlights the importance of providing financial education to the men and women of our armed forces and their families."

In recognizing Blandin's work, the CBBB noted that the Award is "given to 'a leader who has significantly advanced marketplace trust through consumer advocacy, protection or education, or through a specific action or lifetime achievement.'"

The CBBB also stated: **"Blandin is being recognized especially for his demonstrated skill, commitment and passion for financial education and protection for consumers of all ages. As president of IPT, he has developed and sponsored numerous programs that have helped Americans become wise and safe investors, including, sponsorship of the 'Personal Finance Guide for Military Families;' the recent development of the Elder Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation Prevention Program, in partnership with North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) and the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA); the Investor Education in Your Community® program; the national MoneyTrack public television series; The Campaign for Wise and Safe Investing® in partnership with the AARP Foundation, and 'The Basics of Saving and Investing: Investor Education 2020.'"**

Don Blandin was appointed president and CEO of the Investor Protection Trust (IPT), a nonprofit organization devoted to investor education, in 2004.

ABOUT INVESTOR PROTECTION TRUST

The Investor Protection Trust (<http://www.investorprotection.org>) is a nonprofit organization devoted to investor education. The primary mission of IPT is to provide independent, objective information needed by investors to make informed investment decisions. Founded in 1993 as part of a multi-state settlement to resolve charges of misconduct, IPT serves as an independent source of unbiased and non-commercial investor education materials. The IPT provides investor education at both the state and national levels.

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