

NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDCA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2006 INSURANCE FRAUD ESSAY COMPETITION

Columbia, SC... ...The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is proud to announce the winners of the 2006 Insurance Fraud Essay Competition. Middle school and high school students across the state submitted essays on the competition's theme "What Is Bodily Injury Fraud and Who Really Gets Hurt?"

A panel of judges selected the winning essays based on their expression and creativity, mechanics, and writing process. **The winners will be honored at a ceremony Wednesday, November 8, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. at the City of Charleston Police Department.**

The competition is an educational program sponsored by SCDCA, the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, the South Carolina Insurance News Service, the South Carolina Department of Insurance, and the South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators in an effort to inform students about the growing costs of insurance fraud. With over \$120 billion lost by Americans every year, insurance scams are constantly being investigated and prosecuted. Students were asked to address the importance of understanding these crimes and how South Carolina consumers are affected.

About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers. Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit www.sconsumer.gov.

The middle school and high school winners are as follows:

Middle School

Nia Monet' Avila – Holly Hill-Roberts Middle School

Arjun Grover – R.C. Edwards Middle School

Kirin Khan – R.C. Edwards Middle School

Madeline McCallum – R.C. Edwards Middle School

Hortense Richey – Hughes Academy

Elizabeth Sampson – R.C. Edwards Middle School

Da'Shirelle Washington – Holly-Hill Roberts Middle School

Raaven Woodruff – Gray Court-Owings Middle School

High School

Lauren Childs – Pickens High School

Ben DeMarco – Marion High School

Anna Lynn Doster – Camden High School

Jessica Foxworth – Marion High School

Will Marlowe – Loris High School

Timothy C. Mitchum – Timberland High School

Brittany Norris – Loris High School

Cody Ragsdale – Pickens High School

For more information on SCDCA's educational programs, contact the Education Division at 803.734.4195, toll free at 1.800.922.1594 or online at www.sconsumer.gov.