

# State Coalition Of Probation Organizations



## **PRESS RELEASE**

January 10, 2010

SACRAMENTO- The State Coalition Of Probation Organizations has named Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D-Contra Costa) and Assemblymember Alberto Torrico (D-Alameda) as Legislators of the Year. The award acknowledges their leadership in the legislature and their advocacy on behalf of public safety.

Elected to the Senate in 2008, DeSaulnier represents the 7th District that includes Contra Costa County. He is a former Assemblymember for the same area. As Assemblymember, he received the distinction of being the first freshman member to chair the Assembly Transportation Committee. He also chaired the Select Committees on Growth Management and Air Quality. He also sits on the Senate Budget Subcommittee #4 which handles public safety budget issues.

Senator DeSaulnier has introduced numerous bills during his tenure in the legislature. Recently, he sponsored bills to clarify jurisdiction for peace officer bargaining units, workers compensation rights and "owner -authorized" firearms. He has also introduced bills protecting the rights of children, requiring background checks on childcare workers.

Assemblymember Alberto Torrico is the Senate Majority Leader, the second highest position in the Assembly, and has recently been selected to chair the new Assembly Select Committee on Prison and Rehabilitation Reform to tackle criminal justice issues and California's prison system.

Assemblymember Torrico was elected to the Assembly in 2004. Since then he has held various leadership positions in the state Assembly. Immediately after being sworn-in, Mr. Torrico was named chair of the Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security (PERSS). Drawing on his experience as a union lawyer for nearly 10 years prior to joining the legislature, he successfully led the fight against Governor Schwarzenegger's ill-conceived proposals to privatize public pensions and to eliminate benefits to the widows of fallen police officers and firefighters.

Assemblymember Torrico has recently announced his candidacy for California Attorney General. Recognizing his leadership in public safety issues, he has been endorsed by numerous public safety and education associations including SCOPO.

The legislative awards will be presented to Senator DeSaulnier and Assemblymember Torrico at the Annual Legislative Reception held in the Senator Hotel on January 12, 2010.

SCOPO is a statewide organization that represents and assists probation officers at the state level through legislative action, education and coalition building, while offering leadership and support to local probation organizations. For more information about the State Coalition of Probation Organizations, please visit their web site at: <http://www.scopo.org>.