

NATIONAL

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Paralegal Reporter

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FEATURE

Bankruptcy Paralegals

Hostile Environment
— Harassment in
the Workplace

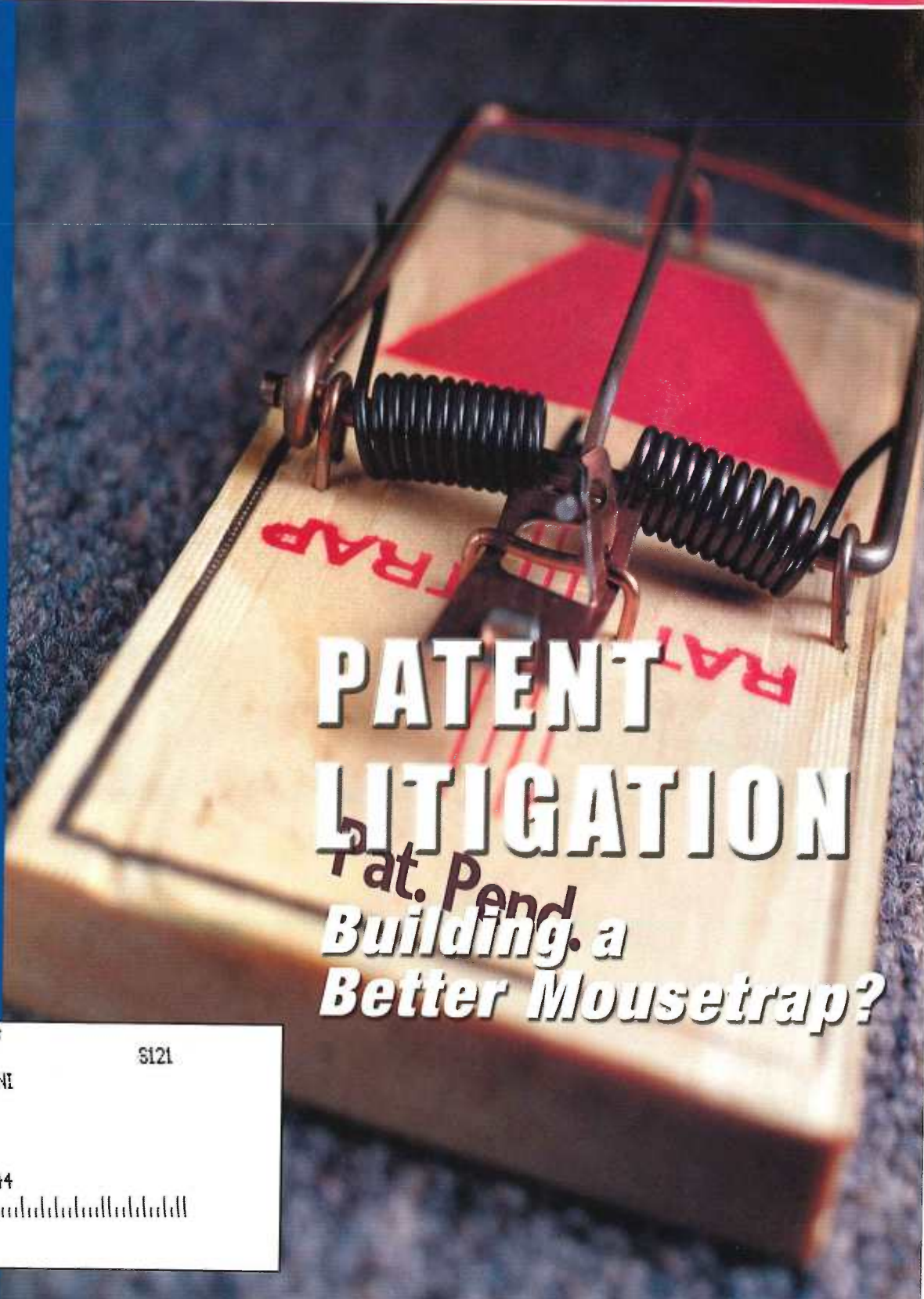
NFPA NEWS

2003 Convention News

PACE Testimonial

West Cite Bytes

Letter to the Editor



PATENT LITIGATION

*Pat. Pend
Building a
Better Mousetrap?*

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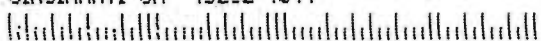
RENEE ROTHWEILER CIPRIANI

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because my investigative and research skills have assisted in locating parties who are attempting to commit insurance fraud against KEMI. Our subrogation, collections, and litigation attorneys have allowed me to perform research on a variety of issues, contributing to the efficiency of the department. My case management skills have allowed us to track important deadlines and comply with court orders in a timely and efficient fashion. The fact that I earned my RP credential in August 2002 lends credence to my abilities and my contribution to the team.

KEMI's senior attorney rewarded my efforts by promoting me to senior paralegal and praising my contributions to the legal services team and to KEMI as a whole.

I believe that working in a non-tradi-

tional setting has given me the opportunity not only to grow professionally but also to set an example, thereby expanding the opportunities for paralegals in Kentucky. I am often asked to speak to paralegal students, and I always encourage them to be courageous and not limit themselves to traditional law firm positions. I explain that forging new ground is a bit frightening at first, but it soon becomes exhilarating and ultimately expands one's abilities that can later be applied in other settings.

I continue to be an active member of the Kentucky Paralegal Association and the Greater Lexington Paralegal Association, serving on both associations' boards. I am also an active member of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations. I am a member of the board of directors for

Virginia Place-One Parent Family, a single-parent housing community here in Lexington, whose goal is to assist single parents in obtaining an education and becoming self-sufficient. I am honored to work with each organization and will continue to strive to expand the role and reputation of paralegals in Kentucky.

**PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE
PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

2002: Susan Wittenberg, Washington

2001: Fawn Barnes, Arizona

1999: Carolyn Saenz, Ohio

1998: Cindy Arvanites, California

1997: Robert E. Shema, Pennsylvania

1996: Lois Lake, Colorado

2003 CONVENTION - AWARD WINNERS

**CIPRIANI & CINCINNATI
RECOGNIZED FOR PACE**

The Cincinnati Paralegal Association and its PACE Ambassador, Renée Cipriani, RP, were honored at the annual convention with the 2003 PACE Ambassador Award. The award recognizes an NFPA member association that has made superior efforts in developing its local PACE Ambassador program to promote the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam (PACE) to its members and its local legal community.

In his nominating letter, association president José Pedro Santos emphasized the pivotal role Cipriani has played since 1998 in developing the Cincinnati association's PACE awareness. "Ms. Cipriani is a tremendous advocate of the PACE program, and her success is evident," wrote Santos. Deborah Baer McKinney, RP, and Cipriani



Renée Rothweiler Cipriani, RP, Cincinnati Paralegal Association PACE Ambassador, and Lesley Cox, RP, NFPA 2002-2003 Vice President and Director of Profession Development

were the first two paralegals in the association to earn their RP designations. Cipriani has led in developing study materials that have been shared with associations throughout the nation. The associa-

tion has a library of PACE reference materials available to study groups and offers PACE scholarships. It has obtained a vendor sponsor for PACE marketing that has prepared PACE posters displayed at all association events. A brochure on PACE is included in each packet sent to a new member of the association. Among its 193 active members, the association has 14 Registered Paralegals, the highest number of any association in Ohio.

**PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE
PACE AMBASSADOR AWARD:**

2002: Central Connecticut Paralegal Association

2001: Central Connecticut Paralegal Association