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The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Honors Richard Duvall and Holland & Knight LLP with the 2014 Community Leadership Award

Annual Sweet Home Virginia Gala Raises Record Funds and Engages Over 100 Donors to Support Critical Needs in Northern Virginia

Oakton, VA (October 23, 2014) – **Richard Duvall**, a partner at Holland & Knight LLP in the Government Contracts and Litigations practices, and the **Holland & Knight** firm were recognized by the **Community Foundation for Northern Virginia** for their philanthropic leadership in the Northern Virginia area with the **2014 Community Leadership Award**. The longest standing community based recognition award in Northern Virginia that honors outstanding community service, it was presented at the Community Foundation’s annual **Sweet Home Virginia Gala on October 10, 2014** at the Sheraton Tysons Hotel.

“Richard Duvall and Holland & Knight are models of outstanding volunteer service in the region,” said Eileen Ellsworth, President of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. “They have had a profound impact on the organizations with which they have been involved. Their dedication to supporting local needs demonstrates the incredible value they place on community service, and I was delighted to bring the work and accomplishments of Richard Duvall and Holland & Knight LLP into the spotlight by honoring them with this year’s Community Leadership Award.”

Co-chaired by **Stuart Mendelsohn** of Holland & Knight and **Hilary Fordwich** of Strelmark, LLC, the Gala hosted over 600 philanthropic, business, and community leaders and raised **approximately \$490,000** to support the Community Foundation’s ongoing work in areas of critical need in Northern Virginia. In honor of the centennial celebration of community foundations in America, **over 100 Foundation guests** participated in the “Stand Up and Pledge” helping the organization raise record funds. These funds directly support the Community Foundation, its work, impact, and capacity to grow philanthropy to meet the most critical needs of the Northern Virginia region.

Along with the dinner and award ceremony, guests at the gala participated in live and silent auctions to benefit the Community Foundation’s work in the region. The silent auction included luxury gifts, quick getaways, themed baskets, souvenirs for the Sports Fan, and more! The live auction offered unique experiences such as a trips to Venice, England, Lake Tahoe and Steamboat Springs; a Pig Picking and Oyster Roast for 60 guests; and a Baja Racing Adventure package.

Richard Duvall is a transformational community leader and business sector champion. As former Chairman of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and former Chairman of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, he has inspired community action contributing to the launch of the GovCon Council at the Fairfax Chamber and the Military Personnel and their Families Fund at the Community Foundation. He led Holland & Knight’s effort in establishing its Northern Virginia office.

Holland & Knight LLP, a multi-national law firm, has led the Northern Virginia legal sector in providing the time, talent and resources of its partners to more than two dozen cornerstone community organizations, including Special Olympics Virginia, the Fairfax Symphony, Easter Seals, Children's Hospital, the American Red Cross of the National Capital Region, Jill's House, the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation, the George Mason University Board of Visitors, and the Tysons Partnership, which the firm helped found.

Support for the Community Foundation's Sweet Home Virginia Gala was provided by Presenting Sponsor, **Holland & Knight LLP**, and from Platinum Sponsors **ACADEMI**, **Booz Allen Hamilton**, **Claude Moore Charitable Foundation**, and **David and Carol Young**.

About the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia:

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is a public charity that grows philanthropy to help meet the most critical needs of the community. Comprised of giving circles, donor advised funds, community investment funds and scholarship funds, the Community Foundation engages donors and grantees in building the Northern Virginia community, and engages in research to assess the region's critical needs.

During FY2014, the Community Foundation:

- Awarded \$3.7 million in grants to nonprofits, interfaith groups and schools addressing critical community needs
- Awarded \$225,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in our region
- Reported approximately \$35 million in philanthropic funds established by individual and corporate donors.

Find more information at www.cfnova.org.

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