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Drakontas' CEO Discusses Fraud in Virtual Worlds at National Criminal Justice Conference

The annual event, hosted by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance, brings together policy makers, criminal justice practitioners and researchers to address issues affecting the criminal justice system

CAMDEN, NJ– Drakontas' CEO, Brian Regli was featured on a panel discussion at the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) 2010 National Conference: *Advancing Justice through Evidence and Innovation*, held earlier this month in Washington, DC.

Dr. Regli's panel, entitled, *"Fraud in the Real and Virtual Worlds: Consumer Protection and Law Enforcement Efforts"*, addressed three prominent emerging threats in the area of consumer fraud: mortgage fraud, intellectual property crime, and fraud in virtual communities.

The panel discussed the increasing problem of mortgage fraud presented by the current economic crisis and the training and technical assistance needs of law enforcement in this area. It also included a presentation on the Mississippi Attorney General's Office's "Operation Knock-Out Knock-Offs," a project funded by the BJA that focuses on protecting the public from fraud through the reduction of the sale of counterfeit goods, and described its efforts to train local law enforcement and increase collaboration among Federal, State and local authorities on this issue.

Dr. Regli focused his presentation on the new opportunities for criminals created by virtual communities and online role-playing games that expose users to theft and fraud. He also discussed the preliminary findings from an ongoing BJA-funded training program Drakontas is administering with Drexel University to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prevent these crimes.

As part of its Training Program, Drakontas will be offering one-day, in-person training sessions at no cost to State and local law enforcement personnel in 2011 in San Francisco, CA (January 19), Franklin, MA (January 26), Little Rock, AR (February 8), Chicago, IL (February 24), Centennial, CO (March 8), Washington, DC (TBD) and Portland, OR (TBD). Additionally, the project team will be hosting a one-hour webinar on December 21, 2010 at 2:00 PM ET entitled, *"Fraud in Virtual & Online Gaming Worlds"* that will highlight the economies, currencies and the types of transactions and related fraud that occur in virtual and online gaming worlds, as well as the legal procedures and investigative techniques available to law enforcement to respond to these crimes.

"The issue of fraud is not new to law enforcement, however, the mechanisms with which criminals are committing these crimes are, and they require tailored response efforts," said Dr. Regli. "Through this training program, we are helping law enforcement stay ahead of the game by ensuring they have the operational capacity to respond to these new threats with the appropriate tools and capacity to do so."

About the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) 2010 National Conference

The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice that supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system.

The 2010 Annual Conference, held December 6-8, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC, emphasized how evidence and innovation can be leveraged to improve the Nation's justice systems and to ensure community safety, and how BJA funding is supporting this approach across the Nation. The Conference featured plenary sessions and numerous workshops that addressed key developments and initiatives that are impacting the criminal justice system today and how other communities can use available funding to further these efforts in their communities to reduce costs, align local systems with future trends, and improve system efficiency and effectiveness.

For more information, visit http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA.

About Drakontas LLC

Drakontas, headquartered in Camden, New Jersey, delivers collaboration tools, manages research and development, provides training programs, and builds custom software and communications solutions for government and business customers. The company was founded in partnership with Drexel University in 2004 to transition technologies developed at the Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Center for the Department of Defense to commercial, civilian and homeland security uses.

To learn more about Drakontas and its solutions, visit www.drakontas.com.

For details on the *Crimes in Virtual and Online Gaming Worlds* Training Program, visit www.drakontas.com/training.

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