



# F.O.P. Legal Plan News

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## FOP Legal Defense Continues to Grow

As of August 2004 the Legal Defense Plan's enrollment has topped 18,400 participants. Growth can be attributed to new lodges forming within certain states and additional new membership in the National FOP. But most importantly the success can be attributed to what the Legal Defense Plan offers to its members. Compared with other commercially available legal defense plans, the FOP has succeeded in providing members with extremely broad coverage at competitive rates. Dollar for Dollar there is not a better plan available to the FOP membership in today's marketplace.

## Benefits of Joining the FOP Legal Defense Plan

Don't forget these important bullets in determining why you should join the Legal Defense Plan.

- Protection for your professional and personal financial security
- Coverage includes Administrative, Civil and Criminal actions arising within the scope of law enforcement employment whether on or off-duty
- Unrestricted choice of your own defense attorneys.
- Plan management is controlled by an appointed board of FOP Trustees.
- The FOP Legal Defense Plan is your protection against frivolous administrative and disciplinary actions.
- Strengthens the FOP and enhances new member recruitment

## Claims Corner

As of July 31, 2004 the FOP Legal Defense Plan has handled over 4,400 cases and currently has more than 500 open case files. In addition, The FOP Legal Defense Plan has paid out over \$12,200,000 in attorney fees to defend its membership.

## Administration Update

The FOP Legal Defense Plan is happy announce that membership dues will be collected on a Pro-Rata basis. For lodges that are on quarterly and semi-annual pay plans you will now be billed either 2 or 4 equal installments. This new billing will take effect at the time the lodge renews.

Coming soon - The New Internet Portal - It will allow you to access and manage your lodge accounts.

Don't forget to check out the Legal Defense Plan Website ([www.fophylant.com](http://www.fophylant.com)) for news, testimonials, tools, and other important information.

For marketing and enrollment information, contact **Maureen Jagos** at the **Hylant Group** - P.O. Box 1687, Toledo, OH, 43603. (800) 341-6038, [www.fophylant.com](http://www.fophylant.com)

For attorney information and coverage questions, contact **Cara Webb** at **Keenan and Associates** - 11501 Montgomery Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM. 87191. (866) 920-6600

\*See Reverse for Testimonial

# TESTIMONIAL

The following is a letter written from a satisfied FOP Legal Defense Plan participant:

Cara,

I wanted to write you and let you know how pleased I am with Craig Curwood's representation of myself against the City of Emporia in its attempt to "railroad" me out of a job.

Since we last spoke in March (04), (when you approved my FOP paid lawyer, Curwood), the City illegally suspended me for 29 days and demoted me in rank for accidentally stopping a wrong vehicle. The City has also tried to alter its own grievance procedure. During this entire period of time, (Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> - June 20<sup>th</sup>), the City has kept me on administrative leave. This has been an attempt to encourage me to leave as I have lost about \$5,000 in overtime. The City has NEVER in its history kept an employee on leave for such an extended time.

The City has also now agreed that I DO have the right to continue with the grievance procedure to try and further reduce the punishment. This was done because Mr. Curwood "Showed" them they were violating their own procedures. (They had tried to claim that a meeting under the, "Police Officer Bill Of Rights", requirements was a "Grievance" hearing and claimed a time limit for the grievance started with that meeting. They further tried to claim I had missed a time limit based on that.) Thanks to Mr. Curwood, they have backed off that assertion.

Most importantly, the City is letting me go back to work as of today, June 26, 2004 and the grievance procedures have been agreed to in writing. All, thanks to Mr. Curwood, I don't know what I would have done had I not had his representation.

In short, I went from and illegal suspension of 29 days down to five; from a demotion in rank to not being demoted; from all my procedural guarantees being taken away to having them fully complied with; from being on indefinite leave to returning to work today, and all because of the FOP Legal Defense Plan and the representation the Plan afforded me through Mr. Curwood. I am convinced that once the grievance procedure runs its course and I get to the final step of a "three person panel", the punishment will be further reduced.

I wanted you to know how well the Plan and Mr. Curwood have served me THANKS SO MUCH!!!!

Sincerely,

Frank N. Mainwaring

TOTAL PAID TO ATTORNEY: \$7,855.00

Can you afford to pay these fees, out of your pocket, for representation?