



**GOLDSTEIN, BUCKLEY,
CECHMAN, RICE
& PURTZ, P.A.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christopher J. Smith becomes mentor with Take Stock in Children

FORT MYERS, Fla. (Sept. 30, 2010) – Christopher J. Smith, an attorney with the Southwest Florida law firm Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, P.A., has become a mentor with Take Stock in Children, a mentoring and college scholarship program for low-income, at-risk students.

Smith joined Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, P.A. in 2007 and practices personal injury law. An Ohio native, Smith is a graduate of John Carroll University and St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, where he graduated cum laude.

Smith is mentoring a high school student who applied and was accepted to the Take Stock in Children program, having signed a pledge to remain crime- and drug-free and maintain a 2.5 or better GPA. Upon graduation, the student will receive a 2+2 college tuition scholarship, meaning two years in community college and two years at a state university.

Take Stock in Children students are matched with an adult mentor, who meets with the student at school for one hour, two to three times per month to model behavior, offer support and guidance, and contribute to a supportive environment. National studies indicate that students with mentors are 52 percent less likely to skip school, 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs and 27 percent less likely to begin drinking alcohol. For more information about Take Stock in Children or becoming a mentor, contact The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools 239-337-0433.

Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, P.A., was established in 1962 and provides a full complement of legal services to clients in its Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Port Charlotte offices. Areas of practice include personal injury and accidents, wrongful death, wills and estates, real estate, bankruptcy, insurance, commercial, criminal, family, immigration and construction law. For more information, visit www.JusticeStartsNow.com or call 239-334-1146.