Farmingville, NY - On Thursday, January 27, 2011, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico received the Keith Romaine Elected Official of the Year Award in New York City at the Annual Winter Reception of Touro Law School. Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine accepted the inaugural award last year on his late son's behalf.

Councilman Panico was elected following Councilman Keith Romaine's untimely death, a Touro Law graduate from the class of 2003. Touro Law School wanted to do something special in Keith's memory and began this annual award because of his interest and passion for government - apparent from his student days at Touro Law.

"It is hard to think of a graduate of which we are prouder. He was a terrific student, probably the best leader of our student government." said Associate Dean Kenneth Rosenblum "As teachers and administrators, we have a substitute relationship with our students. So in a sense we are proud parents. The quality of the work he's done, his integrity, and concern for his constituents is exemplary."

"I could not think of a better person recipient than Dan Panico to receive this award. In choosing Dan they have chosen a tireless and dedicated elected official who does a great job representing all of his constituents. Dan has embarked on a path that will surely lead to a bright future for all those he represents," commented Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine.

"I was very happy to be able to share in the occasion of Dan receiving this prestigious award," commented Evan M. Zuckerman, Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Joseph Farneti. "Not only is Dan deserving of this award, it also continues the legacy that was begun by my late friend Keith Romaine; a legacy of community service."

"We were so thrilled to be able to present the Keith Romaine Elected Official of the Year Award to Daniel Panico this year," said Lawrence Rafal, Dean of Touro Law Center. "It is fitting not only because Dan and Keith were such good friends, but also because Dan is doing an outstanding job since filling the seat left vacant by his friend Keith. The Touro Law community is very proud of Dan's dedication and commitment to the people he serves as well as his friends and family."