



Department of Justice

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**ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL PETER D. KEISLER HONORS LOCAL
RALEIGH WOMAN AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S ANNUAL
AWARDS CEREMONY**

***Banumathi Rangarajan Receives Attorney General's Award
For Distinguished Service***

RALEIGH – Banu Rangarajan of Raleigh was honored today at the Justice Department's 55th Annual Attorney General's Awards Ceremony at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Ms. Rangarajan and a team of prosecutors from around the United States were honored for their meticulous work and cooperative effort in the prosecution of the Overseas Shipholding Group, Inc. case.

"Today's award recipients are extraordinarily dedicated and talented men and women," said Peter Keisler, Acting Attorney General. "They've made incredible sacrifices, and achieved great successes, working on the front lines of the Justice Department on behalf of the American people. I'm proud to have them as my colleagues as we work to advance the Department's mission."

Ms. Rangarajan worked with 12 other attorneys and paralegals representing the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice along with six other districts including the Eastern District of North Carolina, the District of Maine, the District of Massachusetts, the Northern District of California, the Central District of California and the Eastern District of Texas on the case, in which 12 ships belonging to the Delaware corporation based in New York City knowingly discharged harmful quantities of oil which may affect the natural resources and failed to maintain and/or conspired to falsely record disposals of oily wastes. Pursuant to the plea agreement, the company will pay \$37,000,000, with \$3,000,000 of that fine attributed to the violations occurring in the Eastern District of North Carolina. The overall fine is the largest-ever criminal penalty obtained in a case involving deliberate pollution from ships and the intentional falsification of ship records. A portion of the fine, \$600,000, has been earmarked for community service projects within the Eastern District of North Carolina.

"We are proud of Banu for receiving this well-deserved award. Her hard-work in bringing to justice those who have disregard for the nation's environmental laws serves as a beacon to let everyone know that crimes against the environment will not go

unpunished,” stated George E. B. Holding, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, who is in Washington to join the Acting Attorney General in recognizing Ms. Rangarajan.

The Attorney General’s Annual Awards Ceremony provides an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of a number of U.S. Department of Justice employees as well as individuals from outside the Department.

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