

Farewells & Thanks

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organizational skills allowed your officers and me to focus on “the big picture” (and to occasionally assist our clients with their matters) while she handled the countless day-to-day issues. She and the Section received significant support from her supervisors, **Yvonne Sherron** and **Terry Hill** (both of whom have handled her job in the past), and the Bar’s General Counsel, **Paul Hill**, who has always been readily available to assist our Section with respect to legislative, amicus and a myriad of other issues that arise (often without warning).

One of the best perquisites of serving as Section Chair is the opportunity to recognize Section members who have provided outstanding service to the Section with one of our four annual Section awards. Normally, the Section honors one recipient for each of those awards (although there have been occasions in the past in which more than one recipient received an award – usually when both recipients participated in a similar project). However, due to the significant number of Section members who have contributed mightily to our successes this year, I elected to recognize a recipient from each of our Section’s Divisions for each of our awards during this year’s Annual Convention.

The **Annual Service Award** is presented to a Section member who has rendered dedicated and significantly outstanding service to the Section throughout the current year. This year, **Lee Weintraub** and **Cary Wright**, who have been involved with the extremely successful Construction Law Institute since its inception, were jointly recognized as the Real Property Division’s recipients of the Annual Service Award, and **Tae Kelley Bronner**, who has spearheaded the Section’s diversity efforts and its popular and successful fellowship program (and who currently chairs the influential Probate Law & Procedure Committee), was recognized as the Probate Law Division’s recipient of that award.

Our Section’s most recent award, the **Rising Star Award**, recognizes Section members who demonstrate the potential for future Section leadership through their active participation in Section committees and projects. Our “Rising Star” from the Real Property Division this year was **Katherine Frazier**, who chaired the Section’s Annual Convention, its Land Trusts Committee and its Model & Uniform Acts Committee. **Dresden Brunner**, who was responsible for many of the enhancements of our *ActionLine* publication, graciously agreed to coordinate the arrangements which led to the adoption of the Section’s strategic plan and has served as a vice chair of our Member Communications & Technology Committee and as a vice chair of the Probate Law & Procedure Committee. Both Katherine and Dresden are highly motivated and competent individuals who “get the job done” (and done quite well).

As I noted in my last Chair’s column, many former chairs of the Section remain passionately involved with the Section. Four of them were recognized at the Convention with the Section’s most coveted awards, the Robert C.

Scott Memorial Award and the William S. Belcher Lifetime Professionalism Award. Although Immediate Past-Chair **Sandy Diamond** (who also served as a Section officer this year) was recognized as a Probate Division recipient of the Belcher Award, one of the reasons she received the award was on account of her service as the Section’s representative to the Task Force on Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Cases established by Chief Justice Peggy Quince. That task force issued its report to the Florida Supreme Court on August 15, 2009. In addition, Sandy consistently provided sage advice to the other officers and me throughout the year and, as a steering committee member, was one of the driving forces behind the adoption of the Section’s strategic plan. Sandy has served the Section in nearly every capacity throughout the years, and, despite the fact that she claimed she does not to have enough “grey hairs” to merit such recognition, she is well deserving of that award.

The **William S. Belcher Lifetime Professionalism Award** was established in honor of Bill Belcher, a past chair of the Section who graciously and voluntarily shared his knowledge, expertise, ethics and professionalism with his fellow attorneys, in order to recognize Section members who best exemplify the qualities and virtues demonstrated by Bill during his lifetime of service to the profession. Thus, it was obvious that **Jerry Aron** was also deserving of such recognition. As chair of the Non-Judicial Foreclosure Task Force, Jerry has devoted hundreds of hours negotiating with bankers and representatives from the timeshare industry in crafting legislation to protect due process and property rights (and in articulating the Section’s opposition to legislation which failed to protect such rights) over the years (and, in particular, during this year’s legislative session). He has also kindly provided the benefit of his wisdom to other Section officers and me over the years. I am confident that Bill would be proud that his name has been associated with both Sandy and Jerry!

Finally, the **Robert C. Scott Memorial Award**, which was established to memorialize the memory and extraordinary accomplishments of Robert Claude Scott, was awarded to **Laird Lile** and **Melissa Murphy** in recognition of their devoted and continued service to the Section and its membership. Both Laird and Melissa graciously agreed to serve on the steering committee for the Section’s strategic plan and actively participated in the project. As a former Legislative Committee Chair, Laird recognized the need to establish a PAC to facilitate communications with members of the Legislature, and he was instrumental in the formation of the RPPTL-PAC (which, incidentally, is not affiliated with the Section). He continues to remain actively involved with the Section, particularly with respect to probate and Section administrative issues, and, as a member of The Florida Bar’s Board of Governors, he has provided immeasurable support to the Section. He willingly agreed to co-chair the

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