

## MICHAEL FRANCK AWARD PRESENTATION

Donald B. Hilliker\*

Larry Fox is many things. He is a trusted colleague, partner, trial lawyer, scholar, teacher, writer, speaker, commentator, passionate and recognized advocate for legal services for the poor, defender of prisoners facing the death penalty, and dear friend to many. Tonight we add to that list the title, “2007 Michael Franck Professional Responsibility Award Recipient.”

The award is named in honor of Michael Franck, late director of the State Bar of Michigan and long-time champion of improvements in lawyer regulation in the public interest. From the time of his first major undertaking in the name of legal professionalism—serving as reporter to the ABA Clark Commission investigating the state of lawyer discipline in America—to his final years speaking on the floor of the ABA House of Delegates to promote important changes to the Model Code of Judicial Conduct and the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, Michael Franck’s work stood as a benchmark for bringing intellectual honesty, compassion, and uncompromising ethics to every aspect of the practice of law.

Larry Fox epitomizes those qualities. His leadership on professional responsibility issues is widely known and a complete recitation of his contributions would have us here, frankly, all night.

However, even those of us who know Larry’s accomplishments well are given pause when confronted with even a partial litany.

Larry has chaired this very conference, not once, but three times.

He has served as either Chair or member of the following ABA entities:

Commission on the Evaluation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, aka Ethics 2000;

Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility;

Task Force on Judicial Removal;

Working Group on Lawyers Representation of Regulated Clients;

Center for Professional Responsibility Publications Board;

Board of Editors, ABA/BNA Manual on Lawyers Professional Conduct;

and now

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Planning Committee for next year's Centennial Celebration of the ABA  
Canons of Professional Ethics.

If all of that were not enough, Larry has been, for years, a leader of the largest section in the ABA, the Section of Litigation, and served as its chair. I see many of our Litigation Section colleagues and friends here tonight and we welcome them to this celebration of Larry's contributions.

Larry also serves in the ABA House of Delegates, chaired the Section Officers Conference and chairs the ABA Post Conviction Death Penalty Representation Project. His career-long commitment to pro bono legal services for the poor was recognized by the ABA with its Pro Bono Publico Award just two years ago.

Obviously with time still on his hands, Larry has authored or co-authored five books, and written countless book chapters and articles. He was also a major contributor to the work of the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law Governing Lawyers.

Sharing his expertise and passion for the profession with the next generation of lawyers, he has taught professional responsibility courses for many years at his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania Law School, been a visiting professor teaching legal ethics at Cornell and Harvard Law Schools and lectured at countless others.

And, oh yes, I almost forgot. He has practiced law, and at the highest levels. A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, since 1976, Larry has been a partner at Philadelphia's Drinker, Biddle and Reath and, for many years, served as its Managing Partner.

There can be no doubt Larry is a most deserving recipient of the Michael Franck Award.

U.S. District Judge Norma Shapiro, who is with us this evening, wrote in support of Larry's nomination that "with insight, humor, enormous energy and unclouded vision, [Larry] . . . is the constant conscience of the practicing bar, not only in Philadelphia, but nationally. . . . [He is] a distinguished attorney whose passion for professionalism has uplifted the aspirations and conduct of the legal community. . . . [T]here is no one who better emulates the commitment to the highest standards of professionalism and legal ethics exemplified by Michael Franck himself."

Professor Andrew Kaufman of Harvard Law School, himself a recipient of the Michael Franck Award, commented that he invited Larry to teach professional responsibility at Harvard this past spring because he knew that Larry "not only had the teaching skills but deep knowledge of the law . . . that he would put in both a practical and theoretical context. . . . and he [would]... do it with elegance, charm and great enthusiasm.

Professor Kaufman concluded that "put most concisely, Larry is a giant in the field."

ABA President Karen Mathis had hoped to be here to present Larry with the Michael Franck Award this evening, but could not be. She did send a message, however. In it she commented:

Your commitment to encouraging and enabling not only members of our association, but all members of the profession, to achieve the highest standards of professional conduct has been, and continues to be, enormous.

After reciting several of Larry's many accomplishments, she writes:

I'm exhausted just trying to recount in some small manner your tremendous contributions to our association and the profession. The rumors that you are triplets seem more and more believable.

She concludes:

"Thank you for your outstanding work, and best wishes on all your future endeavors. When and if you are ever ready for your second season of service, look out world, here comes Larry Fox! Be well my friend and continue to do good."

On behalf of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, I'm honored to present the 2007 Michael Franck Professional Responsibility Award to my dear friend, Larry Fox.