American Bar Association

Spirit of Excellence Awards

Saturday, February 4, 2017
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.★
(Doors open at 11:30 a.m.)

ABA Midyear Meeting
Miami, Florida
JW Marriott Marquis
Metropolitan Ballroom, 3rd Floor
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**Welcome from the Chair**

Greetings Colleagues:

On behalf of the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession (the Commission), I welcome you to the 22nd annual Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon. Today, we honor an outstanding group of awardees who have all demonstrated a strong commitment to the rule of law by working to eliminate bias and diversify the legal profession.

In August of 1986 the ABA Board of Governors established the Commission to pursue ABA Goal III: “Eliminate bias and enhance diversity.” The Commission established the Spirit of Excellence Awards to recognize lawyers who have excelled professionally; who have personified excellence on the national, state, or local level; and who have demonstrated a commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in the profession.

As we honor our awardees, we will learn about their tremendous accomplishments and some of the challenges they have overcome. They are all pioneering spirits who have dared to go against the grain to achieve great things. Their stories provide much-needed fuel and inspiration for all of us to make a difference for others. This is critical because the struggle is not over as America’s legal profession remains the nation’s least diverse of any comparable profession. In short, we still have a lot of work to do and many challenges to overcome. We all must do our part in order to stand up to injustice, overcome bias and make Goal III a reality.

Highest regards,

Will A. Gunn
Chair
ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession
Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 22nd Annual Spirit of Excellence Awards luncheon. Here, we proudly celebrate the accomplishments of our amazing honorees, true champions of diversity in our profession.

It is our privilege to recognize their contributions and show support for their tireless efforts to promote racial and ethnic diversity. Honorees, we are deeply grateful for all you do. Your critical work not only furthers the goals of the ABA but the profession writ-large. You are our standard bearers and it is a pleasure to celebrate you.

Congratulations and thanks to the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession for its continued work to enhance diversity in the legal profession.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Klein
President, American Bar Association
Message from the President-Elect

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to join you for the 22nd Annual Spirit of Excellence Awards luncheon and honor lawyers who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to diversity in our profession.

I would like to congratulate each distinguished honoree. This award is an acknowledgement of your dedication and contributions to this essential goal of the profession and the ABA.

Many thanks to the staff of the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession for the important work you do. I look forward to working closely with you all next year.

Sincerely,

Hilarie Bass
President-Elect, American Bar Association
Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon—our annual Midyear Meeting opportunity to celebrate lawyers who have worked tirelessly to promote diversity within the legal profession.

Since 1996, the Spirit Awards have honored more than 125 individuals from across the profession for their exceptional efforts. This year, I’m very pleased to congratulate Thomas W. Fredericks, Peggy A. Nagae, Kenneth G. Standard, and Stephen N. Zack as they join the prestigious group of honorees. Their work for racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession and society exemplifies the Spirit of Excellence Award motto, “Ad Astra per Aspera—to the Stars through Difficulty.”

My special thanks and congratulations go to members of the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession for their continuing efforts to honor the achievements of such extraordinary individuals, and to promote our objectives in this critical effort. We applaud the dedication and perseverance of this year’s honorees, and we are extremely appreciative of their contributions. Their exceptional accomplishments provide a strong foundation from which others can learn and build upon.

Our Association is focused on four goals. Goal III calls for the elimination of bias and the enhancement of diversity in the legal profession and the justice system. Today’s luncheon provides an opportunity to focus on the progress that has been made—as well as on the work to be done. The distinguished leaders we honor today have greatly strengthened our efforts.

Sincerely,

Jack L. Rives
Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, American Bar Association
About the Award

American Bar Association Goal III
Eliminate Bias and Enhance Diversity
The American Bar Association Goal III objectives are to promote full and equal participation in the association, our profession, and the justice system by all persons and eliminate bias in the legal profession and the justice system.

Award Purpose
The Spirit of Excellence Awards celebrates the efforts and accomplishments of lawyers who work to promote a more racially and ethnically diverse legal profession. Awards are presented to lawyers, national and international, who excel in their professional settings; who personify excellence on the national, state, or local level; and who have demonstrated a commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession.

Award Motto
“Ad Astra Per Aspera – To the Stars Through Difficulty”
The motto of the Spirit of Excellence Awards symbolizes the struggle of racially and ethnically diverse lawyers as they travel the road to personal and professional success. Special indeed is the person who can navigate on their own way, while paving and assisting those who follow.
Congratulates the 2017 Spirit of Excellence Award Honorees

Thomas W. Fredericks    Peggy A. Nagae
Kenneth G. Standard    Stephen N. Zack

Chaired by Patricia D. Lee, the Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity serves as the leading advocate for racial and ethnic diversity within the ABA. The Diversity Center provides the framework for effective utilization of ABA resources committed to diversity and inclusion and helps to maintain racial and ethnic diversity as a priority for the ABA.

The programmatic entities within the Diversity Center are:

★ Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession
★ Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice
★ Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline
★ Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights & Responsibilities
Program

Welcome Remarks
Will A. Gunn  
_Chair, American Bar Association, Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession_

Greetings
Linda A. Klein  
_President, American Bar Association_

Hilarie Bass  
_President-Elect, American Bar Association_

Jack L. Rives  
_Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, American Bar Association_

2017 Spirit of Excellence Awards
Awards Presented by Will A. Gunn

Thomas W. Fredericks  
_Senior Partner, Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP_

Peggy A. Nagae  
_Principal and Consultant, Peggy Nagae Consulting_

Kenneth G. Standard  
_General Counsel Emeritus of Epstein Becker Green and  
Of Counsel in its Employment, Labor & Workforce Management Practice_

Stephen N. Zack  
_Partner, Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP_

Closing Remarks by Will A. Gunn
THOMAS W. FREDERICKS

Thomas W. Fredericks graduated from the University of Colorado, School of Law in Boulder, Colorado, in 1972 where he began a long and distinguished path influencing the field of Indian Law. While at CU Law, Tom was instrumental in developing the first Indian Law class. During law school, he was a charter member and first Treasurer of the Native American Law Students Association. During this time, he also helped form the Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colorado.

On June 18, 1980, Tom was appointed by President Carter first as Associate Solicitor and then as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs for the Department of Interior. There, Tom assisted tribes in maximizing the economic return to tribes for their natural resources. He was instrumental in the Congressional passage of the Indian Mineral Development Act authorizing tribes to participate in Indian mineral development both as owner-developers and co-owners in joint ventures with private companies.

While at DOI, Tom was nationally recognized for his pivotal role in formulating the National Water Policy related to securing Tribal Reserved Water Rights for Tribal Nations through negotiations and settlement, widely accepted as a strategy preferred to expensive, time-consuming litigation. This National Water Policy continues today and incorporates the Practicably Irrigable acreage standard, an essential concept in establishing western water rights.

After Tom’s stint at DOI, he founded his law firm in Colorado which is now constituted as Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP where he has played a central role in the development of Indian Law over the past five decades. This law firm has become the Nation’s largest Indian Law firm. Tom has developed an extensive and well-respected practice in federal Indian Law and represents tribes, individual Indians, and tribal and private corporations.

In his law practice, Tom has assisted tribes in developing Indian gaming on their reservations, with economic development on tribal lands, in negotiating with the federal government to ensure the United States is meeting and fulfilling its trust obligations to Indians by drafting tribal governmental procedures and codes.

Today, he continues to influence this field through his law firm, where he mentors Indian Law attorneys. He motivates his attorneys to excel on behalf of tribes, guiding them to a clear consensus on client goals and inspiring attorneys to give 100% to their clients, and then give more. He manages the firm’s Colorado office’s day-to-day services and provides oversight on all cases and transactions and continues to work directly with his staff and clients to earn their trust and respect.
Peggy Nagae earned an AB, Vassar College, East Asian Studies; JD, Lewis and Clark Law School; MA, University of Santa Monica; and is a graduate of Harvard’s Educational Management Program.

Peggy was a trial attorney at Betts Patterson and Mines in Seattle; assistant dean, University of Oregon Law School; partner, Nagae, Nash and Hoarfrost; senior trial attorney, Urban Indian Council; and Reginald Heber Smith Fellow, Multnomah County Legal Aid, Portland.

She also served as president, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; vice-chair, ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity; president, Asian Bar Association of Washington; and board member, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, among others.

Peggy represented Minoru Yasui in reopening his WWII Japanese American curfew case and ensuring his conviction was vacated. In 2013, as co-founder of the Minoru Yasui Tribute Committee, Peggy spearheaded Mr. Yasui’s successful nomination for a Presidential Medal of Freedom, which President Obama awarded posthumously in November, 2015. In 2016, she led the legislative/community effort to create a permanent Minoru Yasui day in Oregon.
Kenneth G. Standard is a pathfinder. His leadership throughout his life as the “first” has created an array of opportunities for many. One path inspired his colleagues in the New York State Bar Association Corporate Counsel Section to create an internship program designed to provide summer in-house internship positions for law students from a diverse range of backgrounds. That path also led to his creation of the New York State Bar Association Youth Law Day programs that have provided thousands of inner city high school students with the opportunity to spend the day at a New York State law school taking mock classes and interacting with diverse lawyers, law students, and law faculty. Mr. Standard and his late wife Valerie established an educational opportunity fund at the New York State Bar Foundation.

Another path, led to his inclusion in The HistoryMakers collection, archived at the Library of Congress. No matter what path chosen he continues to demonstrate his commitment to legal excellence, community service, and mentoring. Mr. Standard is a former member of Epstein Becker & Green PC (EBG) and is now of counsel. In addition to his earlier service as a member of the firm practicing labor and employment law. He also was the firm’s first General Counsel and is now General Counsel Emeritus. Mr. Standard also is Chair Emeritus of EBG’s National Diversity and Professional Development Committee, which includes members from each of its 13 offices nationwide. He also is a popular public speaker, both nationally and internationally, most recently in Paris, France, last October.
2017 Spirit of Excellence Award Honoree

STEPHEN N. ZACK

Stephen Zack is a Board Certified trial lawyer and a widely recognized leader. Mr. Zack is Past President of the American Bar Association and was the first Hispanic American to assume the ABA Presidency. Mr. Zack was also the first Hispanic American and youngest President of the Florida Bar. He has served as President of the National Conference of Bar Presidents and as the Chair of the ABA’s House of Delegates—one of the nation’s most influential positions on matters relating to the legal profession. Mr. Zack is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Zack’s main practice as a civil trial lawyer is in the areas of products liability, class actions and federal multi-district litigation, complex commercial litigation, arbitration, international law, and voting rights.

Mr. Zack was nominated by President Barack Obama for the position of Alternate U.S. Representative to the Sixty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and he served as Senior Advisor to the United States State Department. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Zack has represented: Florida’s former Governor and U.S. Senator, Bob Graham as General Counsel; the Florida Senate; the Florida Department of Professional Regulation; the Cities of Hollywood, Hialeah, Miami Beach, Miami, numerous government dignitaries and national clients such as Philip Morris and National Geographic Society.

Mr. Zack’s class action cases include Takata, Volkswagen, and General Motors.

Mr. Zack represented former Vice President Al Gore in the trial of Bush v. Gore.

Mr. Zack was appointed by Governor Lawton Chiles to re-write the Florida Constitution as a member of the Florida Constitution Revision Commission in 1997. He served as Chair of the Florida Ethics Commission from 1987 to 1994.

Mr. Zack Chaired the American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiative (2011–2015), which does work in 50 countries with a 40 Million Dollar budget and over 500 lawyers in 40 countries working on the promotion of the rule of law and actively participates within the private sector, the judiciary and governments throughout the world.

As President of the American Bar Association, Mr. Zack visited and spoke with bar associations, law schools, the judiciary and the media in 22 countries about the rule of law and professional integrity and created the Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities; the Commission on Civic Education in the Nation’s Schools; and the Task Force on Preservation of the Justice System.
Previous Spirit of Excellence Award Recipients

1996 Honorees
Hon. Dennis W. Archer
John E. Echowhawk
Walter R. Echo-Hawk
Fred D. Gray
Antonia Hernandez
Donald L. Hollowell
Hon. Joyce L. Kennard

Posthumous Tribute
Charles H. Dorsey, Jr.
Hon. Thomas Tang

1997 Honorees
Drew S. Days, III
Dr. Sandra Madrid
Dale Minami
Harry J. Pearce
Cruz Reynoso
Rennard Strickland

1998 Honorees
Hon. Benjamin Aranda, III
Adelfa B. Callejo
Hon. Matthew J. Perry, Jr.
Hon. Robert M. Takasugi
W. Richard West
Hon. L. Douglas Wilder

1999 Honorees
Gilbert Casellas
Elaine R. Jones
Hon. Gary Locke
F. Browning Pipestem
Guy Rounsaville, Jr.
Posthumous Tribute
Hon. A. Leon Higginbotham

2000 Honorees
Kalyn Cherie Free
Benjamin L. Hooks
Hon. Patsy T. Mink
Charles R. Morgan
Hon. Henry Ramsey, Jr.
Marcos G. Ronquillo

2001 Honorees
Vine Deloria, Jr.
Hon. Nelson A. Diaz
Paul M. Igasaki
Hon. Damon J. Keith
Angela E. Oh
Thomas L. Sager

2002 Honorees
Peter A. Garcia
Hon. Clifford Scott Green
Peter Herbert
Hon. Harry W. Low
William G. Paul
Hon. Rebecca Tsosie

2003 Honorees
Rabb Emison
Laura V. Farber
Stella Kinue Manabe
Hon. Theodore McMillian
Hon. Louis H. Pollak
LeRoy W. Wilder

2004 Honorees
Norma V. Cantu
Hon. Royal Furgeson, Jr.
E. Christopher Johnson, Jr.
Bill Lann Lee
Arvo Q. Mikkanen

2005 Honorees
Hon. Arthur Louis Burnett, Sr.
José C. Feliciano
Emanuel B. Halper
Karen K. Narasaki
Hon. Raymond S. Uno
Previous Spirit of Excellence Award Recipients

2006 Honorees
Paula E. Boggs
Harry Gee, Jr.
Michael D. Marin
Roderick A. Palmore
Rachel Patrick
Hon. Ann Claire Williams

2007 Honorees
Paulette Brown
William T. Coleman, Jr.
Hon. Joseph W. Hatchett
Arturo L. Jaramillo
Paul W. Lee
Thomas A. Mars
Hon. William S. Richardson

2008 Honorees
Cesar L. Alvarez
Christopher J. Arriola
Lawrence R. Baca
John W. Kozyak
Hon. George Bundy Smith
Margaret Bush Wilson
Mia Frances Yamamoto

2009 Honorees
Julius L. Chambers
Colleen Hanabusa
Joan Mei Haratani
Prof. Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.
Richard A. Soden
Daniel Sosa, Jr. (ret.)
William A. Von Hoene Jr.

2010 Honorees
Francisco “Frank” Angones
Hon. Bernette Joshua Johnson
Raymond L. Ocampo, Jr.
Brad Smith
Louis Stokes

2011 Honorees
Charles Calleros
Hon. Denny Chin
Hon. Bernice B. Donald
Kevin Gover
Eva Paterson
Hon. Leah Ward Sears

2012 Honorees
John W. Daniels, Jr.
Ivan K. Fong
Hon. Petra Jimenez Maes
Hon. Carlos R. Moreno
Cynthia E. Nance
Mary L. Smith

2013 Honorees
M. Javade Chaudhri
Stacy L. Leeds
Myles V. Lynk
Hon. Jenny Rivera
Thomas Saenz
Dr. Walter L. Sutton, Jr.

2014 Honorees
Frankie Muse Freeman
Hon. Brenda Harbin-Forte
I.S. Leevy Johnson
Patricia D. Lee
Prof. Leo M. Romero
Wendy C. Shiba
Benjamin F. Wilson

2015 Honorees
Kim J. Askew
Robert J. Grey, Jr.
Hon. Jacqueline H. Nguyen
Kevin K. Washburn

2016 Honorees
Hugo Chaviano
Sarah Deer
JoAnne A. Epps
Victor M. Marquez
2016–2017 Commissioners

Chair
Will A. Gunn, Ft. Belvoir, VA

Commissioners
Cedric Ashley, Princeton, NJ
Gretchen Bellamy, Bentonville, AR
Linda J. Benally, Phoenix, AZ
Brigida Benitez, Washington, DC
Alan Bryan, Bentonville, AR
Marvin S.C. Dang, Honolulu, HI
Cal Gonzales, San Francisco, CA
Akira Heshiki, Portland, OR
Helen B. Kim, Los Angeles, CA
Florence Johnson, Memphis, TN
Pamela Meanes, St. Louis, MO
Thomasina Real Bird, Louisville, CO
Daiquiri J. Steele, Tuscaloosa, AL
Evett L. Simmons, Port Saint Lucie, FL
Palmer G. Vance II, Lexington, KY

Board of Governors Liason
Paula Boggs, Sammamish, WA

Special Advisor
JoAnn Engelhardt, Palm Beach, FL

Commission Staff
Keevin Woods, Director
Sean E. Smith, Program Associate

For more information about this event and the work of the Diversity Commission, contact:
American Bar Association
Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession
321 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: (312) 988-5643
Email: DiversityCommission@Americanbar.org
Website: ambar.org/DiversityCommission
# Thank You to our Supporters

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Embracing unique perspectives and backgrounds makes us all stronger. State Farm® proudly supports the 2017 Spirit of Excellence Awards and your work to make our hometown safer and more inclusive.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
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Greenspoon Marder is committed to providing excellent client service through our cross-disciplinary, client-team approach. Our goal is to understand the challenges that our clients face, build collaborative relationships, and craft creative solutions designed and executed with long-term strategic goals in mind. Since our inception in 1981, Greenspoon Marder has become a full-service, Am Law 200 law firm with more than 200 attorneys. We serve Fortune 500, middle market public and private companies, start-ups, emerging businesses, individuals and entrepreneurs across Florida and the United States.

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NAPABA
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

is a proud supporter of the

2017 ABA Spirit of Excellence Award

Congratulations to

Peggy A. Nagae

and to the other award recipients.
We salute our partner Steve Zack for his commitment to diversity, and congratulate all of the 2017 Spirit of Excellence honorees.
THE FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION PROUDLY CONGRATULATE

Peggy A. Nagae (Life Fellow)       Kenneth G. Standard (Life Fellow)       Stephen N. Zack (Life Fellow)

ON RECEIVING THE

2017 Spirit of Excellence Award

americanbarfoundation.org

Congratulations to our good friend Steve Zack on receiving the 2017 Spirit of Excellence Award.

Your greatest admirers, Bill and Joan Robinson III
What is The Center?

The Center for Asian Pacific American Women (The Center), celebrating 20 years and growing, is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to the enhancement and enrichment of leadership skills for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA/PI) women through education, networking and mentoring.

The Center for APA Women Congratulates

Peggy Nagae

on receiving the

2017 Spirit of Excellence Award

American Bar Association
Greenberg Traurig’s American Indian Law Practice Group is a multidisciplinary legal and governmental affairs team. We strive to provide wide-ranging legal representation for litigation, transactional, and public policy matters concerning Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and our experience. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Greenberg Traurig is a service mark and trade name of Greenberg Traurig, LLP and Greenberg Traurig, P.A. ©2017 Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Attorneys at Law. All rights reserved. *These numbers are subject to fluctuation.
Dean S. James Anaya and The University of Colorado Law School congratulate Tom Fredericks (’72) on being an honoree for The American Bar Association Spirit of Excellence Awards.
SciTech congratulates all SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS for blazing the trail and lighting the way for so many.

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The ABA Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section

Congratulates the Distinguished Recipients

of the

2017 Spirit of Excellence Awards
Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP would like to congratulate the ABA’s 2017 Spirit of Excellence Award winners Peggy Nagae, Kenneth G. Standard, Stephen N. Zack and our very own Thomas W. Fredericks for their commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession.

Thomas W. Fredericks, Senior Partner

www.ndnlaw.com
The ABA Section of Public Contract Law salutes the Recipients of the 2017 Spirit of Excellence Award

and applauds their exceptional contributions to the legal profession.

The Section of Public Contract Law supports the objectives of the Commission and acknowledges the numerous achievements of the Section’s past and present women and minority leaders in the field of public contract law.

The ABA Section of Intellectual Property Law celebrates the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession and the distinguished recipients of the 2017 Spirit of Excellence Awards.

Thomas W. Fredericks
Peggy A. Nagae
Kenneth G. Standard
Stephen N. Zack

www.americanbar.org/iplaw
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017 SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE HONOREES

“Men do less than they ought, unless they do all that they can.”

Thomas Carlyle

Jo Ann Engelhardt, Commissioner
Peggy Nagae

2017 Spirit of Excellence Awardee

CONGRATULATIONS
ON BEHALF OF
THE FLORIDA BAR

Stephen N. Zack

PAST PRESIDENT
THE FLORIDA BAR

2017
SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD
Nina and David Mandel
warmly congratulate our friend
Steve Zack
and all of the 2017 Spirit of Excellence
honorees.

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Holland & Knight is proud to sponsor the

American Bar Association
Spirit of Excellence Awards.

We congratulate this year’s honorees on their efforts to promote a more racially and ethnically diverse legal profession.

Holland & Knight

www.hklaw.com
Tiffani Lee | Partner
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Epstein Becker Green congratulates our very own Kenneth Standard on being a recipient of the 2017 Spirit of Excellence Award by the American Bar Association.

Ken is a champion and tireless advocate for equal justice and equal opportunity. He has been recognized within the profession and by his clients for his accomplishments as a practitioner. Beyond that, however, he is known for his incredible contributions to the legal community and for his long-standing commitment to increasing diversity in the legal profession. Ken has dedicated himself to improving lives, especially to those under-served and most in need of representation.

Epstein Becker Green congratulates Ken on receiving this national recognition and thanks him for his continued leadership and work towards fostering an environment that will make a difference for all people.
The New York State Bar Association congratulates Kenneth G. Standard and other honored recipients of this year’s Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association.

Robert Stone and Kaufman Rossin are proud to sponsor the American Bar Association

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Proud to Support the 2017 Spirit of Excellence Awards

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SOGI COMMISSION CONGRATULATES
THE 2017
SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section TIPS its hat to the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity for their exemplary efforts in promoting a more diverse legal profession.

Congratulations to the 2017 Spirit of Excellence Award Recipients:
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