

## 2009 LAI Member of the Year

*By: Jesse Smith, 2008 LAI Member of the Year*

This award represents the culmination of the evening's proceedings.

Pleased to have the honor and privilege of presenting this year's LAI Member of the Year award. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of this award.

The Member of Year is selected by prior award winners based on an extraordinary record of contributions to our urban landscape and a track record of professionalism and integrity. Until given, the award is one of the best kept secrets in town, kept even from the award winners – often creating anxious moments for the presenter about whether the award winner will actually attend the dinner.

I can tell you from my discussions with past winners of this award, and from my own experience, there is nothing more meaningful professionally than to be recognized by your peers for outstanding accomplishments and integrity. Members who have won this award more than 10 and even more than 20 years ago remember it with deep fondness.

So now, let me introduce the Lambda Alpha International Golden Gate Chapter 2009 Member of the Year:

This year's Member of the Year wears three hats, having had vast experience in the private, government and non-profit sectors.

This person has a long list of accomplishments over a broad range of development, entitlement, financing, investment, and environmental matters.

A number of major development projects in San Francisco could not have happened without this year's awardee:

Mission Bay, including the UCSF campus, could not have happened without this person

The Giants waterfront ballpark could not have happened without this person

The Westfield/Bloomington's project could not have happened without this person.

This person was instrumental in the development of Yerba Buena Gardens and the Gap headquarters building.

But there are a number of other important projects in San Francisco and beyond that this person has played key roles in, including: the conversions of the former military bases at the Hunters Point Shipyard, Treasure Island, Fort Ord, and the Presidio, where this person has been involved in the Letterman/Lucas Digital Arts Center and the Public Health Service housing development.

But there are even more:

Such as Pier One, the Ferry Building, the Kaiser Geary campus, Oak to 5<sup>th</sup> in Oakland, and the Vallejo Waterfront, Fillmore Center, and Sea Ranch.

This person commands respect.

This person's varied career has a common theme throughout of public service.

This person is very well read. This person is known at times for an uncanny knack of applying literary and historical references to real estate transactions.

This person knows how to get deals done and has the perseverance to see deals through to completion.

This person has been a steward of the Bay and public trust lands.

This person specializes in public-private partnerships.

This person is a recognized expert in urban redevelopment.

This person has been active in ULI and SPUR in addition to this organization, and has held leadership positions in all three.

This person has had a hand in the development of a number of affordable housing projects in the Bay Area.

This person is a great teacher and has lectured extensively on real estate lending and development matters.

Also, this person has mentored many members of this organization.

This person has served as a consultant to the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development and also advised the Government of Mongolia on the conversion of its state-owned stock of apartments to tenant ownership, and the governments of six Russian cities on the disposition of publicly-owned land for private development.

This person has degrees from Stanford and Harvard, and also has roots in the University of Chicago, Hastings and even the University of Vienna, where this person was a Fulbright scholar.

This person has published articles and books on real estate law, taught real estate law as an adjunct professor at local law schools, and received numerous accolades in the legal community, including California Lawyer of the Year, Northern California Superlawyer and – most recently - designation as the Best Real Estate Lawyer in America.

Indeed, the three hats worn by this year's member of the year encompass so many accomplishments it is almost impossible to believe that they could have been achieved by a dozen people.

And so, this year's member of the year is in fact three people, joined by common threads of collaboration on projects, commitment to public service, integrity, dedication and collegiality.

This year's members of the Year are:

David Madway, Bob Thompson and Mike Wilmar.