

# Appreciation for Outstanding Service to NCBA

by Valerie Zurblis

At each year's Annual Meeting, the Nassau County Bar Association President and the Board of Directors give special recognition to their peers who go over and above to advance the mission of the Bar Association. This year, President Martha Krisel bestowed the 2017 President's Award to Greg Zucker and M. David Tell for their extensive pro bono hours provided on behalf of the NCBA toward complex contract negotiations to put a caterer in place.

The Board of Directors elected Community Relations and Public Education Chair Ira S. Slavit to receive the 2017 Directors' Award for his enthusiasm and leadership skills to encourage greater participation by new and existing committee members and add new community programs to the committee's diverse and extensive portfolio.

## Important Priority

A key advantage of NCBA membership is the in-house catering and dining facilities at Domus. Only a handful of bar associations across the county provide this service on site. Thus, having a caterer is an important priority. Greg Zucker, a partner at Westerman Ball, and M. David Tell, a retired attorney whose practice areas include liquor law, spent dozens of hours to get the job done.

"I deeply appreciate the hard work they did to take over this intricate task, making it easier for me to focus on the many other projects and issues," Krisel said. "I'm giving the President's Award with the gratitude of the Executive Committee." She also commended Westerman Ball for its generosity in allowing Zucker and two associates to provide the pro bono time.

Greg Zucker is a senior partner at Westerman Ball Ederer Miller Zucker & Sharfstein LLP, Uniondale, where he litigates commercial and business issues. He has been appointed by the Court as a receiver in real estate and business disputes, special master for discovery purposes and as a mediator.

Zucker recently completed his term as a Director on the NCBA Board. He is past chair of the Federal Courts and Commercial Litigation committees. He is also an executive



2017 President's Award Honorees M. David Tell and Greg Zucker with then NCBA President Martha Krisel.



2017 Directors' Award Honoree Ira Slavit and then NCBA President Martha Krisel

committee member of The Theodore Roosevelt American Inn of Court. He earned his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

M. David Tell is dedicated to enhancing the legal profession through his years of leadership at NCBA. He served on the Board of Directors for 5 terms and chaired the Ethics and Grievance committees. This is the second time he has received the President's Award for his contributions. He was a delegate to the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Currently he is a member of the Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District and sits on the board of the Nassau County Legal Aid Society. He earned his J.D. at Columbia University Law School.

## Expanding Community Service

For the past two years, Ira Slavit has chaired the Community Relations and Public Education Committee (CRPE), an important working NCBA committee, that provide services to the community. According to Caryle Katz, Community Relations Coordinator, "Ira's gentle manner belies the energy and enthusiasm he brings to promote the mission of the Committee, to produce programs that serve the needs and interests of the residents of Nassau County, all the while encouraging his fellow members to become involved."

Slavit always looks to build upon CRPE's strong foundation of commu-

nity service. He serves as co-chair of the Mock Trial Tournament Awards Reception, an annual event he helped initiate; made successful outreach to the New Lawyers Committee to involve its members in CRPE's activities such as chairing public education seminars that address current issues of concern to the community; and helped re-institute the offering of CLE credit to public education seminar attendees. He is also on the Law Day Committee, which determines keynote speakers and honorees for the Law Day Awards Dinner. This year Slavit and CRPE worked with

U.S. District Court Judge Joseph F. Bianco to establish the Long Island High School Mentor Moot Court Competition, and he was elected to the NCBA Board of Directors.

Ira Slavit is a member of Levine and Slavit, PLLC in Mineola and Manhattan, a third generation law firm founded by his grandfather, Louis H. Levine, and father, Leonard S. Slavit, who is still in practice. The firm represents plaintiffs in personal injury and medical malpractice litigation. He earned his law degree from Boston University School of Law.

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