

# PROFILES IN MEMBERSHIP

## Michael D. Whitty

For the last ten years, Mike Whitty has been steadily becoming more and more involved with the activities of the Section. A Section author, Mike has written an article for *Probate & Property*, "Crummey Trust Computations," which appeared in the January/February 1995 issue and is still consulted by practitioners who need advice in this area. He is a frequent contributor to Section CLE as well. "I have greatly enjoyed my work on the Estate Planning and Administration for Closely-Held Business Interests Committee, where my responsibilities as vice-chair and co-chair have had me involved in communicating with our committee members, planning CLE presentations, and developing the web page," reports Whitty.

Whitty represents wealthy individuals, mostly business owners and principals in private equity firms, in planning for the preservation and transfer of their wealth. In particular, he advises individuals and fiduciaries in the design or drafting of estate plans, wills, trusts, lifetime gifts, and other estate planning documents, family limited partnerships,



and shareholders' and redemption agreements. He also guides clients through litigation involving disputes between trustees and beneficiaries and in contested trust and tax matters and has served as an expert witness in such cases.

Like so many of his Section colleagues,

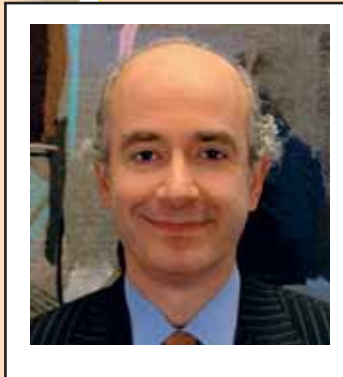
Mike finds the opportunity to broaden his professional working relationships on a national basis invaluable. "Of all the benefits of Section membership, I most enjoy the Section's collegiality and the opportunities for networking. Of course, the CLE is excellent."

In addition to his active Section involvement, Whitty is a member of the Family Firm Institute and Attorneys for Family Held Enterprises. In each case he credits his work in the Section as the impetus to join these other organizations.

Mike enjoys golf and movies with his wife Julie, and all sorts of activities with his daughter Caroline, when he can keep up with her exuberance. ■

## Leopold Z. Sher

For Lee Sher, attendance at ABA meetings has been a family affair since he and his beloved wife Karen attended their first meeting when Karen was five months pregnant with their oldest child. Sher admits, "Some of our best family trips have been to the cities where the Section held its meetings. Our family ABA trips together were even more fun because we felt like we were visiting with family, our RPPT family. Members of the Section and their families always extended a friendly hand to all of us, and the Section functions and venues provided a built-in source of entertainment." Over the years, Sher has developed close personal relationships with many RPPT members and their families all over the country and has celebrated numerous happy events with his colleagues. "The multitude of pictures we have of our own family with members of our RPPT family is only surpassed by the fond memories we have of spending wonderful times together with them at Section meetings."



Attendance at RPPT meetings provides

Sher with timely ideas, innovative approaches, and new learning on a vast array of real property subjects. His skills in his practice areas of commercial real estate, finance, leasing, creditors' rights, commercial transactions, and commercial arbitrations continue to be refined at each meeting Sher attends.

Sher says that his Section accomplishments have been achieved with the guidance, support, and cooperation of other Section members. "In 1987, we worked hard in the Title Insurance Committee to assure that the first new standard ALTA policy to be promulgated in many years would be balanced and would recognize the interests of both the insureds and the insurance industry." More recently, under Sher's tutelage, the Real Property committees in Group H melded unrelated practice areas into a cohesive group of committees that now work together for CLE and other joint projects.

Sher says that clients, attorneys, and the business community view him with greater credibility because of his identification with the Section. Networking opportunities not only give him the chance to work with the best attorneys around, but they also result in business referrals. He knows his active Section membership directly led to his membership in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, the American College of Mortgage Attorneys, the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers, and the Anglo-American Real Property Institute.

"Everything available to those who actively participate in Section life I have received, and I will be forever grateful to all of you who have made my involvement so rich, rewarding, and meaningful." ■

*A project of the Section's Standing Committee on Membership*