

PROFILES IN MEMBERSHIP

Andrew F. Palmieri

Andrew Palmieri is a business and commercial transactions attorney in the Alexandria, Virginia, office of the Columbus, Ohio-based law firm Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP. More than half of his practice is concentrated in commercial real estate finance, development and leasing, multi-family housing acquisition and finance, and common interest community association development. The remainder of Andrew's practice focuses on business and commercial transactions, corporate governance, and employee relations.

Andrew joined the Section immediately after graduating from law school in 1987 and has been an active member of the Section for over a decade. "As an aspiring transactional lawyer, I joined the Business Law Section, the Young Lawyers Division, and RPPT," Andrew explains, "but I soon found that RPPT was the place to be as a young lawyer seeking greater substantive knowledge in real estate and business transactions. At that time, I was one of the youngest people attending RPPT meetings, and I could not understand why more young

lawyers were not taking advantage of the opportunities offered by RPPT."

That early impression has colored many of Andrew's initiatives within the Section. In addition to chairing a substantive committee and speaking and writing nationally on topics relating to common interest community associations, Andrew was the initial chair of the RPPT Fellows Program,

which is designed to introduce young and minority attorneys to the Section. During his term as co-chair of the Section's Membership Committee, Andrew was a proponent of the Section's new Young Lawyers Network, an initiative designed to welcome and engage young lawyers in Section projects.

Andrew is presently the co-vice chair of the Section's Standing Committee on Continuing Legal Education and a member of the Section's governing council.

In addition to his ABA activities, Andrew is a trustee for The American University of Rome, the chair of the Alexandria Waterfront Commission, a fellow in the American College of Mortgage Attorneys, and pro bono counsel to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. He enjoys his season tickets with the Washington Wizards, Capitals, and Redskins, collecting Southwestern art, gourmet dining, exquisite wines, and quiet evenings with his girlfriend, Nancy, and their Schipperke, Pandora. ■



Jo Ann Engelhardt

Jo Ann Engelhardt can still recall her first appointment to a Section standing committee. "I was suddenly in a new environment, observing how the Section was run and meeting its leadership, and I felt way over my head!" Jo Ann did not forget how intimidating it can seem to some-

one newly involved with the Section's activities. When she became co-chair of the Membership Committee, she sought to help create greater involvement by younger attorneys and new programs designed to make the Section easier to navigate.

"What I value most about the Section is the chance to learn from so many smart and talented people. It's not just the sub-

stantive law, but how to create great CLE, how to achieve consensus on meaningful issues, and how to work successfully to support an organization in which you believe."

Jo Ann has served in a number of roles in the Section, including as vice-chair of the Diversity Committee, a member of the Section Council, a member of the Planning Committee, and a member and chair of multiple substantive committees. Most recently, Jo Ann represented the Section as a charter member of the Synergy Summit, an association of seven professional organizations whose interests intersect with those of the Section. In addition, she has written several articles both for *Probate & Property* and for the *RPPT Journal*. She is particularly interested in Section participation by nonpracticing attorneys, and she has recruited a number of trust officers and financial service professionals to active Section participation. Jo Ann, who is a managing director of Bessemer Trust in its Palm Beach office, knows the professional benefits of Section membership for professionals in related fields. The Section also benefits from the perspectives introduced by members who work outside the traditional bounds of law firm practice.

In addition to her ABA involvement, Jo Ann serves on the Professional Advisory Committee of the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, is the secretary of the Board of Trustees of Poinciana Day School, and acts as the chair of the Finance Committee of the USS Saratoga Foundation. Jo Ann finds time for her family and is a serious voice student with a repertoire in English, French, German, Spanish, and Hebrew. ■



A project of the Section's Standing Committee on Membership