

# *A Walk Down Memory Lane from the 33rd Annual Meeting*

*by Matthew Noce • HeplerBroom LLC • St. Louis, MO*

The 33rd Annual Meeting was held at Big Cedar Lodge from May 31 – June 2, 2018 and was a huge success with 238 attendees. At the meeting, the organization presented several awards to a list of worthy recipients. Scott Sergeant, who is an Assistant Counsel with the Missouri Department of Transportation, received the first ever Karl W. Blanchard, Jr. Award of Excellence which is awarded annually to the most outstanding participant at the MODL Trial Academy.

Speaking of the MODL Trial Academy, Karl Blanchard of Blanchard Robertson Mitchell & Carter P.C. was presented with a Service Award for his 15 plus years of extraordinary dedication and commitment spent running and developing that program into the premier trial prep program it is today.

Additional Service Awards were presented to Gary Willnauer of Morrow Willnauer Church LLC, Theresa Otto of Baty Holm Numerich & Otto PC and Rick Wuestling of Roberts Perryman P.C. for their outstanding service during their years serving as MODL Board Members.

Last, but certainly not least, MODL presented its most prestigious award, the Ben Ely, Jr. Defense Lawyer of the Year Award, to Joe Roper of the firm of Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer & Crawford, P.C. This award is given to a defense lawyer who exhibits high moral, ethical and professional standards. Joe embodies each of these characteristics and is most deserving of this prestigious distinction.

MODL also elected its new officers at the Annual Meeting including its 33rd President, Dana Frese of Healthcare

Services Group. Other elected officers included Mimi Doherty of Deacy & Deacy, LLP as Vice President; Debbie Champion of Rynearson, Suess, Schnurbusch & Champion, LLC as Secretary; and Brian Waller of Shelter Insurance Companies as Treasurer.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's Annual Meeting which will be held at the Hilton Branson Convention Center from May 30 – June 1, 2019. Hope to see you in Branson next year!



## Thank You!

*The MODL Board would like to acknowledge and thank its company and firm sponsors. These sponsors truly allow this organization to continually put on a first-class event each year.*

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