

2011 CBA AWARD RECIPIENTS

The following award recipients were to be recognized for their achievements at the 2011 CBA Annual Meeting April 29. Look for more about the Annual Meeting at www.cincybar.org and on the CBA's Facebook page. More will also be in the June issue of the CBA Report.

TRUSTEES' AWARD



Patrick J. Garry

*Presented by: Jim Brockman,
Chair of CBA Awards Committee*

Patrick J. Garry, who has a solo practice concentrating on criminal defense, has worked to strengthen the profession, in part by sharing the experience of his own worst days with others.

A graduate of Boston College and then the UC College of Law, Garry began the alcoholism recovery process almost 10 years ago. With the

support of his wife, Catharin, his family, his professional colleagues and his friends, Garry went through what he describes as the "humbling experience" of his recovery, and he later became an associate director of the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program which confidentially serves attorneys who suffer from mental health issues including depression, alcoholism and substance abuse.

He has focused a great deal of his personal and professional life to assisting others. Periodically he returns to Falmouth, Ky. — where he initially received treatment — to participate in 12-step meetings. He also regularly participates in 12-step meetings at River City Correctional Center. Garry also serves on the board of the Gateway House. His father, attorney Timothy A. Garry, said he "has no idea" how many people his son has helped over the past decade, but knows that "so very many people from Cincinnati" have benefited from his care, concern and assistance.

It's a "great gift," Garry said of the experience. "I've been a witness to many quiet, remarkable, seemingly miraculous transformations."

Nominator Jean M. Geoppinger noted that in her work on the CBA Grievance Committee, she is well aware of the "plague substance abuse is upon our profession. I, too, know that Pat is a primary resource for attorneys in our community who struggle with such demons."

Garry, who considers it a privilege to work with OLAP, was selected for the Trustees' Award because he not only serves the CBA, the legal profession and the general community, but also demonstrates a high level of commitment, dedication and courage.



William R. Graf

*Presented by: Jim Brockman,
Chair of CBA Awards Committee*

No one would ever accuse Bill Graf of doing things half-heartedly. He is one of those individuals whose natural intellectual curiosity includes more than books and spills into his whole life. Graf's zest for law and life has made him the finest of mentors — a true statesman in the Cincinnati estate planning arena (and beyond).

Graf has demonstrated his commitment most clearly through his creation and teaching of the 18-week "Estate Planning and Drafting Series" for the CBA. Since 2006, Graf has led the comprehensive class on a biennial basis with his former law partner, Michael Moyers, in the first class and his current law partner, Mark A. Stiebel, in subsequent classes. The class is much like a graduate level program, with an ambitious syllabus and reading list, and weekly homework, including detailed drafting assignments.

Graf conceived of the class, with the encouragement of his colleague John Campbell, as a way to raise the bar for estate planning attorneys, with the lofty but simple goal of making Cincinnati the home of the best of the best in the estate planning field. One of Graf's students said it best: his "approach makes me proud to be in the profession and in this practice area. The amount of preparation time he has devoted is beyond belief."

A partner at Graf & Stiebel LPA, Graf practices in the areas of estate and trust administration, estate planning, business law, estate and gift tax controversies and contested trust and estate proceedings. He is a graduate of Denison University and The Ohio State University College of Law, where he earned his J.D. *cum laude*.

Admitted to the U.S. District Court — Southern District of Ohio and the U.S. Tax Court, he also serves as a member of the OSBA Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law Section Council and is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He served as president of the Cincinnati Estate Planning Council during 2008-2009.

In addition to his work at the CBA, Graf has presented at the ACTEC 2010 Ohio meeting, the OSBA Advanced Probate and Estate Planning Seminar and has been published in the Probate Law Journal of Ohio.