

RPPTL Member Adele Stone Is Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer of the Year

Adele I. Stone of Atkinson, Diner, Stone, Mankuta & Ploucha, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale has received the 2009 Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award for The Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer of the Year. She is the first woman to earn the award.

The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education created the Anstead award in 2005 to recognize exemplary professionalism and excellence in the practice of law and character and commitment to The Florida Bar's certification program. The BLSE annually presents the award to a Florida board-certified lawyer or judge.

BLSE Chair Joni Armstrong Coffey of Miami presented this year's award June 29 at the BLSE's annual-convention reception sponsored by Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company.

Coffey applauded Stone's extensive involvement in ethics-related endeavors and organizations, and quoted her nominator as saying, "Adele exemplifies all that is good, decent and honorable in a lawyer."

Stone is board certified in real estate law and is managing shareholder at Atkinson, Diner, Stone, Mankuta and Ploucha, P.A. She currently chairs The Florida Bar Foundation. She is an executive council member of the Bar's



Section member, Adele Stone (right) was presented the 2009 Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award for The Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer of the Year at the Bar's Annual Convention in Orlando in June. BLSE Chair, Joni Armstrong Coffey of Miami (left) presented the award June 29

Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section and co-chairs the section's professionalism and ethics committee. She is the 2009 recipient of the Russell E. Carlisle Advocacy Award, which recognizes an attorney whose career has exemplified a commitment to the poor and to public interest work. Stone frequently lectures at ethics seminars for a variety of organizations, and has served on The Florida Bar's Ethics Committee. She has served as Broward County recruiting chair for Florida Attorneys Saving Homes project and chair of Legal Aid of Broward County. She founded the Broward County Legal Aid Advisory Board.

Other board certified lawyers nominated for the Anstead award were Kristin Adamson-Landau, Tallahassee; Jeffrey Michael Cohen, Miami; Francine Marie Ffolkes, Tallahassee; Susan Whaley Fox, Tampa; Eric Aaron Jacobs, Hollywood; Sanford Arthur Minkoff, Tavares and L. Norman Vaughan-Birch, Sarasota.

The Florida Bar's board certification program is now in its 26th year and recently added specialties in adoption law and education law, bringing its total number of certification areas to 24, the greatest number of state-approved specialties of any program in the nation. For more information, please visit FloridaBar.org/certification.