

**PHILIP D. WELLER**  
2011 RECIPIENT OF  
DISTINGUISHED TEXAS REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In officers candidate school, one thing the Army teaches its future leaders is that Hesitation kills. In order to be a leader, an officer should be decisive. The difference between a leader and a good leader is the percentage of times he makes the correct decision. If that is the standard, Phil Weller is not a good leader; he is a great leader.

Many others have seen the leadership qualities of Phil Weller. He was the managing partner of the Dallas office of Vinson & Elkins, managing partner of the New York City office of Vinson & Elkins, and is now the managing partner of the Dallas office of DLA Piper LLP USA. Phil has served as the chair of the Real Estate Forms Committee of the State Bar of Texas, the Chair of the Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, and the President of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. He is a member of the Anglo-American Real Property Institute and the American Law Institute-American Bar Association. He has been the course director for the following continuing legal education courses:

- Advance Real Estate Law Course (State Bar of Texas)
- Advance Real Drafting Course (State Bar of Texas)
- Mortgage Lending Institute (University of Texas School of Law)
- The Leasing Institute (University of Texas School of Law)
- Modern Real Estate Transactions (ALI-ABA)

Phil is a graduate of Bowling Green State University (B.S. *summa cum laude*) and the Bates College of Law, University of Houston (J.D. with *highest honors*, first in class). Bowling Green, in 2010, named him one of its 100 Most Prominent Alumni.

After graduating from law school, Phil gathered no moss and immersed himself into the world of continuing legal education. For the last thirty years, He has been a fixture on the CLE circuit (locally in Texas, nationally and internationally), having presented hundreds of papers on real property issues.

Phil's leadership style is a pleasure to behold. He navigates quickly through the agenda, keeping the parties on course, generally with humor and a sometimes biting wit. One of his more famous expressions occurred at a meeting he chaired at which one person kept bringing up an issue that was repeatedly voted down. Finally, Phil said, "Your objections have been noted and ignored." Or, as it was later referenced: "AN and I."

The following institutions have recognized Phil Weller's outstanding contributions to the legal profession in general and the practice of real estate law in particular:

- Texas Super Lawyers
- Texas Lawyer=s Go-To Guide
- Chambers USA Leading Lawyers for Business (Tier 1)
- The Best Lawyers in America
- Guide to the World=s Leading Real Estate Lawyers
  - International Who=s Who of Real Estate Lawyers

With all of these institutions recognizing Phil Weller as one of America=s outstanding real estate lawyers, it is only fitting that the Real Estate, Probate and Trust Section of the State Bar of Texas bestow upon him the 2011 Distinguished Texas Real Estate Attorney Lifetime Achievement Award.