

Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section

On Sept. 25, the section held a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building in honor of the transportation and transportation security law general and chief counsels. Three distinguished lawyers in the field of transportation and transportation security law were honored that evening with special awards.

James Whitlow, deputy chief counsel of the Federal Aviation Administration, presented the Transportation Lawyer of the Year award to Rebecca MacPherson, assistant chief counsel for regulations, Office of Chief Counsel of the Federal Aviation Administration. John Nannes of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP presented the Transportation Lawyer of the Year award to Paul Mifsud, the vice president of government and legal affairs (United States) for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Scott Falk, deputy chief counsel of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, presented the Transportation Security Lawyer of the Year award to Steven Basha, associate chief counsel (enforcement), Office of the Chief Counsel of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

Christopher Carlson, the winner of the John T. Stewart, Jr. Scholarship Writing Competition award, received a plaque and a check for \$2,500 for his winning paper, "Public-Private Partnerships in State and Local Highway Transportation Projects," which is published in this issue of *The Federal Lawyer*.

Section on Taxation

On Sept. 19, the section hosted a breakfast meeting at which attendees heard Margaret Milner Richardson, tax policy adviser for the Obama-Biden campaign, and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, senior policy adviser for the McCain-Palin campaign, discuss each presidential candidate's tax proposal. Donald Longano, currently a principal in PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP National Tax Services, served as the moderator. Private-sector tax practitioners, gov-

ernment tax officials, and the press attended the meeting.

In addition to statements of each candidate's position on federal income taxes, Richardson and Holtz-Eakin responded to a broad range of policy questions from the audience on both individual and corporate taxation. The questions included topics such as taxes on capital gains and dividends, alternative minimum tax, corporate income tax, estate tax, Social Security payroll tax, tax reform, and other tax policy issues.

Naturally, the senior advisers advocated for their candidate's specific proposal addressing these issues; therefore, the proposed solutions varied. Significantly, however, both advisers generally agreed on the major issues that the future President would need to address. For example, both Richardson and Holtz-Eakin agreed that alternative minimum tax reform is very important but unlikely absent comprehensive tax reform. Similarly, they both agreed that estate tax reform should be a top priority regardless of which candidate ultimately wins the election.

The timeliness of the topic and the

opportunity to raise these issues with senior advisers to both the Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns resulted in an exciting program, exemplifying the section's focus on providing opportunities for interaction between tax practitioners in the public sector and the private sector.

The Section on Taxation expresses its gratitude to the George Washington University Law School for hosting the event and to Kari Larson of Latham & Watkins, Mike Desmond of McKee Nelson, David Blair of Miller & Chevalier, and Edward L. Froelich of Morrison & Foerster for their roles in organizing and facilitating this meeting. **TFL**

Sections and Divisions is compiled by Adrienne Woolley, FBA manager of sections and divisions. Send your sections and divisions information and photos to awoolley@fedbar.org or Sections and Divisions, Federal Bar Association, 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201.



Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section: At the reception in honor of the transportation and transportation security law general and chief counsels—(l to r) Transportation Lawyer of the Year award recipient Rebecca MacPherson; Transportation Lawyer of the Year award recipient Paul Mifsud; Transportation Security Lawyer of the Year award recipient Steven Basha; and John T. Stewart, Jr. Scholarship Writing Competition award recipient Christopher Carlson.