**NCBA Presents Awards & Scholarships at 2019 Fall Conference**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[UNIVERSITY PARK, FL] National Creditors Bar Association (NCBA) presented its 2019 awards and scholarships last week at the NCBA 2019 Fall Conference in Washington, DC.

**Donald Kramer Award: Joann Needleman**

NCBA presented its 2019 Donald Kramer Award to NCBA past-President Joann Needleman. The Donald Kramer Award, named in honor of NCBA founder Don Kramer, is presented to individuals whose efforts have made a substantial and lasting impact for the benefit of the creditors rights community.

**NCBA Member of the Year Award: Tomio Narita**

National Creditors Bar Association (NCBA) presented the 2019 Member of the Year Award to Tomio Narita with the law firm Simmonds & Narita LLP in San Francisco, California. The award is given to a NCBA Member who demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the NCBA vision.

**President’s Award: Robin Cole**

NCBA President Yale Levy presented Associate Executive Director Robin Cole the 2019 President’s Award for her dedication and service to the association during her tenure as Acting Executive Director and throughout her career.

**Outstanding SCBA Award: New York State Creditors Bar Association**

The 2019 Outstanding SCBA Award was presented to the New York State Creditors Bar Association. The award recognizes a state creditors bar association (SCBA) which has best demonstrated high-level activity in the legal community and NCBA, and which has overcome significant challenges.

**Community Service Award: Gurstel Law Firm P.C.;** **Keith D. Weiner & Associates, CO. LPA**

The NCBA 2019 Community Service Award was presented to co-recipients Gurstel Law Firm P.C. of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Keith D. Weiner & Associates, CO. LPA of Cleveland, Ohio. The award recognizes a NCBA member firm which has donated generously to the betterment of their community. In addition to the firm’s recognition, the recipient receives a check to the charity of their choice.

**2019 Scholarships**

The NCBA Scholarship Program was established to promote financial literacy to our future leaders of our communities. This year’s applicants were asked to submit a video or essay on the topics *“What should be in the curriculum of a financial literacy course?”* or***“****What I wish I knew about credit then that I know now.”* The submissions were judged on originality, clarity and insight on the subject. Members of NCBA’s client community and the NCBA Awards and Scholarships Committee willingly served as judges this year. The 2019 NCBA Scholarship Program is sponsored by Stratus Payment Solutions.

The following scholarship recipients were formally announced at the NCBA 2019 Fall Conference in Washington, DC:

A scholarship of $5,000 was awarded to Claire Sheehan from West Chester, Pennsylvania. Ms. Sheehean is a student at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. The scholarship contest topic was, *“What should be in the curriculum of a financial literacy course?”* The award is to be used for tuition, fees (to include room and board), books, supplies or equipment connected with enrollment in a non-vocational, accredited two-year or four-year college or university in pursuit of a degree.   
   
A scholarship of $7,500 was awarded to Deanie Hatch from St. Paul, Minnesota. Ms. Hatch is studying law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. The award is to be used for tuition, fees (to include room and board), books, supplies or equipment connected with enrollment in an accredited school of law in pursuit of a Juris Doctor degree. Ms. Hatch accepted her scholarship award at the NCBA 2019 Fall Conference in Washington, DC.

Contact Information

Jim Podewitz

Director of Communications

The National Creditors Bar Association

Direct: 202-861-0706

Email: jim@creditorsbar.org

Web: www.creditorsbar.org

National Creditors Bar Association is a nationwide bar association of over 550 creditors rights law firms and in‐house counsel of creditors. National Creditors Bar Association members are committed to being professional, responsible and ethical in their practice of creditors rights law.