

SALUTE TO JOHN MORAN



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For the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law (RPPTL) Section of The Florida Bar year of 2024-25, the position of Chair was held by John Moran. John is an attorney with the Gunster Firm in West Palm Beach, where he has been since 2001 after graduation from the George Washington University School of Law. John's area of practice is probate, trust, guardianship and fiduciary litigation, including complex estate and trust administration.

John became involved with the Section early on in his professional career. Bill Hennessey and Mike Simon, who he still practices with at Gunster, introduced him to service with the Section. Mike connected John to Barry Spivey who was, at that time, Chair of the Trust Law Committee. John offered to take notes at the Trust Law Committee meetings, and the rest was history. John served as a Vice Chair of the Trust Law Committee, then moved over to the Probate Law and Procedure Committee, where he ultimately served as Chair for five years.

John reported that he has had a wonderful experience serving as Chair of the Section. John said that, unexpectedly, he very much enjoyed planning the Section meetings and finding ways to come up with unique events and surprises for Section members. John discovered in himself a talent for hosting and hospitality, which came as a surprise to him. John, fortunately, had very good mentoring from his spouse, Danielle.

Another facet of the Chair position that John enjoyed was writing the Chair's Column, published regularly in *ActionLine*. John's final column is in this current issue.

When asked if there were any surprises in his year as Chair, John said no, because he was very well trained and mentored by his predecessors, including Immediate Past Chair, Katherine Frazier. John is grateful to Katherine and many others in the "Back Row" who prepared John for what to expect and how to deal with the many demands on the Chair of the Section.

When asked if John had any advice for Section chairs that follow him, he said, "Don't be afraid to make it your own and to let the things you do reflect your interests and personality."

For new members of the Section, John's advice and recommendation is, don't try to do it all or know it all. It's better to dip your toes in committee meetings and volunteer, than to wait until you think you've got things figured out. But, after you volunteer, it's very important to follow through. The Section leadership is always looking for new members that can be relied on to advance into leadership positions. Also, for those new members with growing families, don't hesitate to bring your children along. John reports that one of his favorite takeaways from his many years of involvement in the Section is his own kids attending meetings and events and meeting our colleagues. He calls it the "RPPTL Effect." Growing up in the Section, John opines, is a wonderful way to raise your kids.

John stresses that he couldn't have done this year without the advice and support of his family: Danielle, Charlie, and Noelle. As for his wife, Danielle, John said, "It was awesome to work with her. We had a lot of fun collaborating on the meeting planning." He also expressed deep thanks and appreciation to the Section's administrators, Hilary Stephens and Jeremy Citron. He said, "Hilary and Jeremy work tirelessly to make sure everything runs smoothly. They do an incredible job."

The Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar owes a huge debt to John Moran for the many, many hours and days that he invested in providing leadership as Chair of the Section for 2024/2025. If you see John, stop him, shake his hand, and tell him thank you for his wonderful and magical job this past year. Welcome to the Back Row, John, and your most deserved position there.

JOHN C. MORAN MAN OF STYLE

