



*For Immediate Release: May 20, 2019
Contact: Jillian Jones, 312.673.5992*

NIPA Announces Lifetime Achievement, Excellence in Education and Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients at the 2019NAFE

Chicago — The National Institute of Pension Administrators (NIPA) announced its 2019 award recipients at the 2019NAFE at The Loews Coronado Bay Resort in San Diego, California. On April 30, recipients of the Lifetime Achievement, Excellence in Education and Outstanding Volunteer Awards were recognized during the Networking and Recognition Lunch.

The Lifetime Achievement Award honors a volunteer who has significantly contributed to the association and industry over several years.

Ann Slotwinski, APR John Hancock

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, Ann Slotwinski, Assistant Vice President, TPA Services, is responsible for managing the partnership between Plan Consultants and John Hancock.

John Hancock Retirement Plan Services is a major retirement plan provider serving businesses of all sizes, from entrepreneurial companies just starting a plan for the first time to some of the largest organizations in the country that require total retirement outsourcing services.

Ann has acquired more than 35 years of experience in the financial services industry, all of it with John Hancock. She began her career as an underwriter for Group Life and Health Benefits. Next she served as Manager, TPA Services before being promoted to Director and then to her current role in 2012.

Ann is a Past President of NIPA and is serving her seventh year on the NIPA Board of Directors. She holds the APR (Accredited Pension Representative) designation.

Ann earned an Honors BA in English from Western University in London, Ontario and a BEd from the University of Toronto.

The Excellence in Education Award honors a volunteer's substantial improvements and contributions to NIPA's educational programs.

Alison J. Cohen, Esq., CPC Ferency Benefits Law Center

Alison J. Cohen, J.D., CPC, is a Partner with Ferency Benefits Law Center in Atlanta. Alison advises clients on many issues related to qualified retirement plans, including design, mergers and acquisitions, audits, and operational issues. Alison commonly works with clients that have operational issues and guiding them through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and/or Department of Labor (DOL) corrective programs, preparing corrective filings, and preparing and supporting clients through audits conducted by the IRS and/or DOL.

Alison is a member of the Georgia and California State Bars and holds her designation as a Certified Pension Consultant from the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA). Prior to joining Ferency Benefits Law Center, Alison worked at a large bundled service provider for nearly 16 years as an Associate Vice President, Compliance Manager and Regulatory Liaison. As part of her responsibilities there, Alison served as a national speaker on audit and correction issues. Alison served on the Employee Plans Subcommittee of the IRS Advisory Committee on Tax-Exempt and Governmental Entities (ACT). Alison has been actively involved with NIPA serving as a speaker, author, and

developer/teacher. Alison is a current member of ASPPA's Legislative Relations Committee and served in past years as the Chair of the CPC Exam Committee. She is also the current President of the Pension Education Council of Atlanta. In 2019, Alison assumed co-authorship of "ERISA: A Comprehensive Guide," along with Ilene H. Ferenczy.

The Outstanding Volunteer Award honors a volunteer based on their notable contributions to the association.

Michele Furano, APA, ERPA

Malcom Thompson & Associates, Inc.

Michele Furano is the Director of Operations with Malcolm Thompson & Associates. She continues to maintain her role of Account Executive administering both defined contribution and defined benefit plans. She has worked in the industry for over 30 years. Her responsibilities along with the daily operations of the company include managing larger and more complex plans along with combination plans. She adds her technical support and experience in sales and marketing meetings.

Michele earned her APA (Accredited Pension Administrator) through NIPA. As a member of NIPA, she has participated on the exam committee writing exam questions and reviewing exams. She is currently a member of the planning committee, residing as co-chair for the NIPA annual conference. In addition, she also has an Enrolled Retirement Plan Agent (ERPA) designation through the Internal Revenue Service. Other professional involvement includes participation on various support groups with our industry vendors, including website design, software design for eligibility tracking and TPA Round Table.

Michele received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from the State University of Potsdam in New York.

"This year's award recipients make an invaluable impact on this association and help to move the retirement plan industry forward," said NIPA Executive Director Laura J. Rudzinski. "We are extremely impressed and grateful for the dedication, energy and passion they bring to their roles as volunteers every day."

NIPA is the only organization focused exclusively on providing resources for TPA business owners to successfully navigate the lifecycle of their business. For more information on NIPA and the NAFE, visit www.nipa.org/NAFE.

###

About NIPA

The **National Institute of Pension Administrators (NIPA)** is the voice of retirement plan professionals looking to move TPA businesses forward. NIPA serves TPA business owners across the United States by creating environments with world-class education, best-practice exchanges, and deep peer-to-peer relationships. As a result, our members' revenue grows dramatically, processes are streamlined, productivity increases, and life-long relationships are developed. For more information, visit www.nipa.org.