

# 2013 Project of the Year Competition

## The Judges Speak

From bridges and roads to levees and high-speed rail, when it comes to judging the Project of the Year Competition, the process can be a daunting one. Yet, each year a group of subject matter experts step up and volunteer their time to review, evaluate and rank each of the project entries.

The Association thanks our esteemed panel of judges for their time and commitment. In recognizing their contribution, we asked them to share some thoughts about their judging experience.



“I appreciated the opportunity to be a judge. It was tough to score, as everyone obviously put a lot of effort into their projects and the presentation materials. However, side-by-side, it was possible to see differences between them, as well as the extra efforts put forth. Congratulations to all participants would be in order.”

**Michael Odette, SR/WA**  
Michigan Department of Transportation



“The scope and breadth of these projects was extraordinary. It was gratifying to see the level of detail involved with implementing these major infrastructure projects across North America. Reading about the challenges of these very complex projects and the inventive solutions that were implemented is not only educational, it also demonstrates the genuine depth of expertise of IRWA members.”

**Neilia LaValle**  
Paragon Partners Ltd.



“Having the opportunity to review the amazing projects supported by our members was a great experience! The talent, hard work, and professionalism they bring to projects is so evident and plays such an integral role in their success. I am so proud to be a part of this strong and growing association. My congratulations to all who made the effort to submit such well done summaries of their project efforts.”

**David Breitmayer**  
Dewberry



“Wow, what a country we are blessed to live and work in as right of way professionals! The projects submitted were, once again, impressive. A viaduct project in Washington State, a transmission line in Texas, bridge projects crossing over rivers, a levee improvement in California and a unique housing project along the border of our country. Judging which is best is no easy task!”

**Clyde B. Johnson, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC**  
Clyde B. Johnson, Consultant Services, Inc.



“I was impressed by the complexity of the projects and the creative ways the project teams dealt with aggressive schedules and adverse public opinion. Reviewing the submittals was both challenging and educational. I give kudos to all those who submitted a project entry, as they were all deserving of recognition.”

**Bill Dow**  
Coates Field Service, Inc.



“The amount of work that goes into completing these large infrastructure projects is impressive. The overall quality of the entries was exceptional and really showcased the expertise of our right of way professionals. I have so much respect for what we, as right of way folks, can accomplish, especially given the very tight time constraints we often face. It was an honor to be able to judge the entries.”

**Jerry Lund, SR/WA**  
City of Madison, WI



“I am constantly amazed by the resourcefulness of right of way professionals and their ability to ‘pull rabbits out of their hats’ to meet project schedules while complying with federal and state rules. Each entry was an inspirational testimony to the experience and creativity of the individuals involved. All the entries were interesting and had valuable information to share. Each should be commended for a job well done.”

**Darryl Root, R/W-RAC, J.D.**  
Overland, Pacific & Cutler, Inc.



“This year’s competition showcased an amazing variety of projects, addressing so many different community needs. It was inspiring to see the creative solutions to each project’s unique challenges and how these communities and right of way professional teams worked together to make the projects a success for all. This was a great learning experience, and I plan to share these case studies with others.”

**Christi Glendinning, R/W-AC, MAI**  
Commercial Appraisal Associates