

The Judges Cast their Votes



IRWA's Annual Project of the Year Competition has grown in popularity and stature since its inception in 2010. With entries ranging from roads and railways to relocations and utility construction, judging is a complex task requiring subject matter expertise in a variety of fields. As in previous competitions, each International Committee selected one judge, ensuring representation from each of the core disciplines, including asset management, environment, local public agency, pipeline, relocation, surveying and engineering, transportation, utilities and valuation.

The Association would like to thank this year's esteemed panel of judges for their time and commitment. In acknowledging their efforts, we asked them to share some perspective about the experience.

"The projects demonstrated a diversity of scope, as well as the quantity and quality of the efforts undertaken by companies, agencies and individual employees who support the values of the IRWA. While selecting the best project was a challenging effort, it does not compare with the amount of implementation required by the project teams involved."

Brent G. Arnold, SR/WA
HDR Engineering, Inc.



"The competition clearly demonstrates the many complexities of the industry.

These were outstanding projects, with each representing the profession and IRWA in the best possible light."

Mike Hart, LS, CFedS
Bowman Consulting



"Each of the projects was a winner in its own right. With such a varied scope of projects, it was interesting to see how all the different aspects were tackled with diligence and professionalism."

Sue Findley, SR/WA, R/W-AMC, R/W-NAC
Percheron Acquisitions, LLC



"We have exceptional professionals and tremendous expertise in our organization, and it came through in the submissions that were presented. I am impressed with the caliber of projects and the solutions that each team generated. It was a privilege to serve as a judge.

Leslie Finnigan, SR/WA
Universal Field Services, Inc.



"The contrast in both types and scope of projects illustrated the diverse composition of members and firms within the IRWA. All of the entries dealt with unique challenges, and it was interesting to learn how team efforts lead to creative problem solving for successful project completion. It was a pleasure to participate and gain a better understanding of some of the major projects our associates are completing for the improvement of our nation's infrastructure. The entries were all deserving of recognition.

Connie W. Williford, MAI
Allen, Williford & Seale, Inc.



"It's great to see right of way professionals at their best. IRWA's Project of the Year Competition reflected a wide range of complex projects. It was difficult to select one winner from the submissions, as each represented unique situations and innovative solutions."

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



"I'm always impressed at how our right of way colleagues are able to find and execute solutions to the challenges they are faced with. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. This was another great learning experience that I will share with my Chapter."

David Whitlock, SR/WA
Mission Valley Power



"The majority of the team leaders for the projects submitted had an SR/WA designation, which emphasized to me the importance of the education provided by IRWA. Each project had its own unique challenges, and the team leaders used their knowledge and abilities to establish new acquisition and relocation processes."

Penny Rolf
WSB & Associates, Inc.



"Reading about the ways our right of way professionals are being challenged and how our multi-disciplines interact is always enlightening. The human interest aspect was brought forward in many of these projects. This really emphasized the importance of our work and why we strive to treat all parties with fairness and dignity."

Donald J. Sherwood, MAI, SR/WA, FRICS
Integra Realty Resources - DFW

