



SHARON REULER

receives the

DISTINGUISHED REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2019

by the Real Estate, Probate & Trust Law Section
of the State Bar of Texas, presented at the
Advanced Real Estate Law Course on July 11, 2019

Sharon Reuler joins a short list of extraordinary lawyers who are recognized by the State Bar for significant and sustained contributions to the Texas real estate bar throughout their legal careers, what Sharon calls professional volunteerism. She is the 20th attorney (and third woman) to receive this prestigious honor from REPTL.

Squeaky Wheel For decades Sharon chipped away at the legal establishment to get more recognition for the law of common interest developments and their mandatory membership associations - known as HOAs (homeowners associations) and POAs (property owners associations). She combatted beliefs that HOA Law is not a substantive area of practice and that it's "too residential" (ie, uninteresting). She lobbied to get HOA lawyers appointed to State Bar committees that plan continuing legal education (CLE) courses for real estate lawyers, and as speakers at the courses.

Finally!! Sharon's patience, persistence, and passion were rewarded in 2017 when the stars aligned for REPTL, the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and the Supreme Court of Texas to recognize "Property Owners Association Law" as a discrete body of knowledge and a specialized legal practice worthy of certification by the State of Texas. As one of a handful of REPTL appointees, Sharon helped draft the application, qualifications, and standards for certification in POA Law.

TUCA Sharon first came to the attention of the Texas real estate bar as a champion of the Texas Uniform Condominium Act. She began working on TUCA as a Realtor in 1980. In 1990 (3 years after law school) Sharon organized a drafting committee of HOA lawyers to reinvigorate the decade-old proposed legislation, and then served as TUCA's spokesperson in the Sessions of 1991 & 1993, testifying at hearings and organizing support. Sharon's first two CLE articles were about TUCA.

HOA Bills In 2005 Sharon discovered a talent for reporting on HOA statute-making in Texas. To engage readers in the process and its consequences, Sharon tried to be concise and witty in reporting to her 1,500 free subscribers. Sharon "blogged" during 7 consecutive biennial legislative sessions from 2005 through 2017, which spanned the lead-up and aftermath of the historic "HOA Reform Session" of 2011. After 4 of the sessions, Sharon helped present HOA legislative updates as webcasts for TexasBarCLE.

CLE Sharon's first CLE presentation in 1994 started a 25-year relationship with TexasBarCLE as author, planner, mentor, and visionary, for which she received the staff's Standing Ovation Award. Sharon is best known for her CLE partnership with Houston attorney Roy Hailey. For 12 years, until Roy's passing in 2015, CLE's dynamic duo of Sharon and Roy conceived and presented articles, webcasts, and courses that were lively and practical, as well as informational. Their Texas POA Primer won the Jerry Saegart Award for best paper at the 2010 Advanced Real Estate Law Course. Sharon's work with TexasBarCLE continues. She chairs a one-day POA Law Course on September 11, 2019. ("*Y'all come!*")

Information about Sharon Reuler is available
at <http://txlandlaw.com/sharon-reuler-lawyer/>