



A Winning Spring

Opening the mail here at the office can be a dismal affair. I receive letters from disgruntled readers (less than our fair share, I like to think). Reminders from the Post Office about the precipitous rise in periodicals postage. And quite a few notices about ingenious new products that must—truly must!—have a story penned about them.

But I took heart in recent months when I opened three simple envelopes, each alerting us that ARIZONA ATTORNEY and its staff had prevailed in various competitions among publications. Here, then, is our good news (and their accompanying logos).

We've won two **Apex Awards for Excellence**.

Sponsored by the editors of *Writing That Works: The Business Communications Report*, the 19th-annual awards are based on excellence in "graphic design, editorial content and the success of the entry in achieving overall communications effectiveness and excellence":

- One award came to us for our profile of State Bar President Jim Smith, published in July/August 2006. Titled "A Sense of Place," it mapped one man's amazing life trajectory.

- A second award was given for the design of what we call a "spread," the opening two pages for a major feature article. The spread opened our November 2006 series of stories in our "Special Focus on Eminent Domain."

We also won a **Communicator Award**, which is especially gratifying. Not only did we land an Award for Excellence (the highest award possible) in this international awards program recognizing "creative excellence in the communication field." But we were recognized for our March 2005 feature story "The Seven Deadly Judges." That piece was written by former Editorial Board Chair Randall Warner, who has long been a friend to the magazine and its staff. Congratulations, Randy.

Finally, the design efforts of our Art Director, Karen Holub, were recognized for our January 2007 issue focused on "Immigration: The Borders of

Debate." The **American In-house Design Award** came from Graphic Design USA, which has been conducting design competitions for 40 years. This competition recognizes in-house (non-agency) designers—people who accomplish wonderful things with fewer resources.

Outside the magazine, the State Bar Communications staff also won awards for the concept, substance and design of the Bar's 2007 guide to member services, titled "**The State Bar Café**."

It's enough to restore my faith in the mail. Fingers crossed for this big envelope titled "Publishers Clearing House"

As always, send your questions, comments or story ideas to me—either via U.S. Mail or at arizona.attorney@azbar.org.



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