



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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For Immediate Release

**Richard G. Bickel, Member of the
PA Chapter of the American Planning Association,
to be Inducted to the AICP College of Fellows**

Harrisburg, PA, March 4, 2010 - The PA Chapter of the American Planning Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce that member Richard G. Bickel, AICP will be inducted to the American Institute of Certified Planners College of Fellows at the American Planning Association National Planning Conference in New Orleans. Mr. Bickel is one of just 37 AICP members selected in 2010 for this honor. The distinguished College of Fellows numbers just shy of 450 members; they represent the top echelon of the American Planning Association whose total membership is 43,000 and includes 13,083 active AICPs.

As the American Planning Association notes, "Election to Fellow is one of the highest honors that the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member."

Mr. Bickel receives this honor in recognition of his achievements in planning, and as such is elevated before the public and the profession as a model planner who has made significant contributions to planning and society. Fellowship is granted to planners who have been members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership.

Members of the College of Fellows are concerned with mentoring and future advancement of the profession of planning. As outstanding professionals in the field of planning, Fellows of AICP address student organizations, state APA conferences, and professional development programs.

Speaking on Mr. Bickel's impact in planning, Kenneth B. Hughes, AICP, Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission, shares, "I have found Rich to be the ultimate professional planner - one who is fair, unbiased, innovative, and practical, always seeking to properly balance the true needs of the community he served with the reality of achievable goals. He has advocated for what is right and sustainable, even if it was not locally popular, and his work has made a difference."

PA Chapter of APA members, including chapter president Alexander J. Graziani, AICP, look forward to honoring Mr. Bickel and his colleagues at the 2010 class ceremony on Saturday, April 10 at the Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter. "This honor means that Rich is one of the best of our profession. We congratulate him on this recognition of the positive impact he has had on communities throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey" shares Mr. Graziani.

Mr. Bickel is Director of the Planning Division for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission based in Philadelphia, PA. Additionally Mr. Bickel chairs the Legislative Committee for the PA Chapter of APA. He holds both an undergraduate degree and a planning master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and resides with his wife in Ardmore, PA.

The PA Chapter of APA is a chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The PA Chapter works to advance planning at all levels of the Commonwealth through education, legislation and public awareness. For more information please visit www.planningpa.org or contact us at info@planningpa.org.

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