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E-DISCOVERY SPECIALISTS
A BARBRI Professional Association



ACEDS 2016 E-DISCOVERY AWARDS: EXPERTS, COMMUNITY BUILDERS AND LEADERS

April 21, 2016 / by [Jason Krause](#)



On Wednesday at the ACEDS 2016 E-Discovery Conference and Exhibition, the organization awarded the second annual ACEDS Awards. The nominees were all pioneers and innovators in the e-discovery industry and are dedicated and committed to advancing the profession and remaining at the forefront of technology advancements, education, and training.

This year, ACEDS added new awards to recognize the innovation and achievements

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of Service Providers, Rainmakers, Law Firms and Corporate Legal Departments. In addition, ACEDS awarded a CEDS Scholarship to Sheryl Moore for her essay on the Role of Certification in Verifying E-Discovery Competence.



Craig Ball

ACEDS presented the **Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Craig Ball**. Craig is an attorney and computer forensic examiner from Austin, Texas who often serves as a court-appointed special master in e-discovery disputes. But the thing that makes Craig essential to the e-discovery industry is not just that he is recognized as one of the best at his job, but that he has committed himself to educating and sharing his expertise in order to move our profession forward. He has delivered more than 1700 presentations and papers worldwide, most explaining how lawyers and litigation support specialists need not be afraid of data as evidence, but can

and should embrace it in serving clients.

The winner of the **CEDS Ambassador** award is **Robin Athlyn Thompson, CEDS**. Robin has over 40 years of experience in the industry managing discovery in high profile MDL litigation, and she's brought all of that experience with her as a member of the ACEDS Advisory Board and President of the ACEDS Phoenix Chapter. Additionally, as the Vice President of Marketing for BIA, she is a master networker and evangelist for the eDiscovery industry. Before ACEDS even existed, she was fighting to promote the visibility and stature of litigation support professionals and to create a standardized certification program that could help the industry.

Our **E-Discovery Person of the Year** is **Michael Quartararo, CEDS**. As director of litigation support in the New York office of the law firm Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP,



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Mr. Quartararo has a long and distinguished career in the legal field in handling and managing complex e-discovery operations involving multiple parties and multiple lawyers. With Stroock since 2008, Mr. Quartararo was a co-founding member of the firm's E-Discovery and Information Governance Practice Group, leading a staff of project managers and technical analysts who provide consulting, litigation support, technology and training services to the firm's 300 attorneys and paralegals nationwide. Mr. Quartararo is also the author of the forthcoming book *Project Management in Electronic Discovery: An Introduction to Core Principles of Legal Project Management and Leadership in E-Discovery*, which is due to be published in the coming weeks.

In addition, Mary Mack, ACEDS Executive Director awarded three Executive Director's awards. The first went to **Bill Hamilton**, who was Quarles and Brady's first National E-Discovery Partner and now teaches Electronic Discovery and Digital Evidence as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida's Levin College of Law. Most importantly, Bill has been a full-throated advocate for certification and ACEDS since the organization's early days.

The second award went to the founder of the ACEDS Mentoring Program, **Leslie Saravia**. Her call for mentors and mentees was answered without hesitation and ACEDS thanked Leslie for her intuitiveness, volunteerism, and work in creating a world class foundation for this program.

The final Executive Director's award went to e-discovery service provider **Zylab**, whose good works include doing pro bono work on the UN War Crimes Tribunals, and whose support of ACEDS has never faltered. Many new ZyLAB people are certified now, and more are in the pipeline.

This year's winner of our **Outstanding Local Leader** is **Christopher Dix, CEDS**,

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from the ACEDS Jacksonville Chapter. Together with organizer Suzanne Clark, a CEDS-certified attorney, Chris and the Chapter hosted ACEDS Jacksonville's e-Discovery Week, in which the chapter pulled together a weeklong series of events, speeches, dinners, and get-togethers. He has also hosted live webinars on cutting edge and controversial topics and has helped grow Jacksonville's chapter into one of the nation's most vibrant. Under Chris' leadership, the Chapter has partnered with Legal Aid to provide pro bono e-discovery services to the community, formed a local rules committee and continuously motivated the Chapter board to make e-discovery and ACEDS an integral part of their local community.



ACEDS Chapter of the Year, New York Metro

The **Chapter of the Year** goes to **ACEDS NY Metro**. If you are attended this year's ACEDS conference, you know that the NY Metro Chapter is an active and vibrant community of like-minded professionals. In addition to networking and social events, the group produces a regular volume of great podcast interviews and content to share its expertise and help create new opportunities for professional development for its

members. New York Metro has more than doubled in membership since 2015 and is comprised of excellent industry professionals that each have a passionate interest in helping their local eDiscovery community.

And in recognition of several outstanding organizations committed to excellence in e-

discovery, the **Corporate Legal Department of the Year** went to **CSX Transportation** in Jacksonville. Its employees have attained the CEDS credential and are active in their local ACEDS Chapter. In addition, they leveraged their annual CLE conference in January 2016 to highlight emerging issues and hot topics in e-discovery specific to the changes in the Federal Rules.

The **Law Firm E-Discovery Department of the Year** was awarded to **Keesal, Young & Logan** of Long Beach, California. This 45-year-old boutique law firm represents companies in the maritime, transportation, healthcare and energy industries and maintains a white collar criminal defense practice. With an average staff tenure of 16 years, Keesal has a long-standing reputation for professional development and for taking a personal interest in the well-being of their staff.

The **E-Discovery Service Provider of the Year** went to **Cobra Legal Solutions** of Austin, Texas. With a full-service technology platform, a customizable dashboard allowing clients to view the status of real-time projects and flawless work product, all of the nominators agreed that Cobra was deserving of this award.

Rainmaker of the Year is the ACEDS award recognizing individuals who serve customers with integrity in order to solve complex litigation problems. This year's award went to **Mark MacDonald, CEDS**, who is the Vice-President Sales for BIA. Mark has been with BIA for nearly a decade, and roughly 20 years in the industry. As an ACEDS certified e-discovery professional and senior manager, he helps guide and support the sales team in all aspects of their key objectives.

ACEDS is proud to recognize all of these excellent representatives of our industry.

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