

NEWS RELEASE



American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries

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ASPPA to Honor Kathryn Kennedy and Candidate Achievers

Outstanding Educator and Candidates who Excelled in Credential Courses Announced

Arlington, Va. – The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) will recognize Professor Kathryn Kennedy with the ASPPA Educator's Award, and three outstanding examination candidates with the Martin Rosenberg Academic Achievement Award. ASPPA will present the awards at its annual conference, Nov. 1-4, at the Gaylord, National Harbor, MD, near Washington, D.C.

Each year, ASPPA uses a rigorous nomination process to recognize an outstanding educator with the **ASPPA Educator's Award**. The recipient has made significant contributions to retirement plan education. ASPPA invites the honoree to attend the ASPPA Annual Conference for recognition during a special general session. This year, ASPPA announced that honor will go to Professor Kathryn J. Kennedy.

Kathryn J. Kennedy joined The John Marshall Law School as a full-time faculty member after many years of private practice and as an adjunct professor specializing in employee benefits. She practiced with the McDermott, Will & Emery law firm in Chicago and was an actuary with the Towers Perrin actuarial consulting firm. Kennedy established the Master of Laws program in employee benefits. She developed a Master of Science degree program in employee benefits for non-attorneys. She graduated from Drake University with honors, and *summa cum laude* from Northwestern University School of Law, where she was on the *Law Review* editorial board and member of the Order of the Coif. A fellow of the Society of Actuaries, Kennedy offers the law school a unique prospective into employee benefits law due to her legal and actuarial credentials. [\[Photograph\]](#)

The **Martin Rosenberg Academic Achievement Award** honors its namesake, the late Martin Rosenberg, a fellow of ASPPA. Rosenberg served as an ASPPA Education and Examination Committee member from 1979 to 1985 and was its general chairperson from 1985 until his death in 1987. The award recognizes the top performing candidates each year based on credential education examinations. The ASPPA Pension Education and Research Foundation administers the award, which ASPPA established in 1990 to honor Rosenberg. The 2009 academic achievement honorees follow:

Steve Riordan, of Fairfield, Ohio, will receive the achievement award for the fall 2008 Advanced Retirement Plan Consulting (C-4) examination. He currently serves as a senior technical manager with Fidelity Investments Testing, Reporting, & QDRO Services. For more than seven years, Riordan worked in various capacities in the retirement industry and now specializes in compliance testing. An ASPPA member since 2005, he attained the certified plan consultant, qualified plan advisor, and qualified 401(k) plan advisor designations. Riordan is a graduate of Miami University where he majored in finance. [\[Photograph\]](#)

Melissa Warner, who graduated *cum laude* in May 2003 from Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y., will receive the award for her outstanding performance on the spring 2009 Defined Contribution Administrative Issues – Compliance Issues (DC-2) examination. Warner holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics and three teaching certifications. After two years teaching special education at Hope Hall School in Rochester, N.Y., she joined the Retirement Services division of Paychex, Inc., a leading provider of payroll and human resource services. She is currently a 401(k) conversions communication specialist, supporting clients who are changing their plan recordkeeping services to Paychex from other providers. [\[Photograph\]](#)

Leslie L. Wechling will be honored for her outstanding performance on the spring 2009 Defined Contribution Administrative Issues – Advanced Topics (DC-3) examination. She has served as a retirement plan professional for the past 18 years. As a compliance specialist, she provided consulting services to clients, was a relationship manager and trust officer providing administrative and consulting services, and was a senior qualified plan consultant, who provided underwriting and consulting services to her clients. Wechling is a retirement plan consultant with Retirement Plan Services, LLC in St. Louis, Mo. She is preparing for the defined benefit examination to obtain the ASPPA Qualified Pension Administrator credential. She received her Master of Liberal Arts degree at Washington University, Bachelor of Arts at Maryville University, both located in St. Louis. [\[Photograph\]](#)

The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) is the national professional society of more than 6,500 retirement plan and benefits professionals who provide consulting and administrative services for qualified retirement plans covering millions of American workers. ASPPA is a premier educator, voice, and advocate for the employer-based retirement system. ASPPA members are retirement professionals of all disciplines including consultants, administrators, actuaries, accountants, and attorneys. For more information about ASPPA, visit www.asppa.org.

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