On Nov. 14, after the first day of the 2017 Military & Veterans Law Section CLE on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel, the Section awarded Council Member and Membership Co-Chair Kirk Warner, of Smith Anderson, its first distinction - the Award for Distinguished Service to the Military and Veterans. Section Chair Matt Wilcut presented the award to Warner.

The award was recently created to recognize a Section member who not only provides outstanding service to military members and veterans but who also, through selfless assistance, promotes the same in others. The Section will continue to honor members each year and the award’s title will officially carry Kirk’s name in memory of his contribution to the Section, it’s formation, and his time as Chair of the Section’s predecessor from 2013-2016, the NCBA Military & Veterans Affairs Committee.

Award for Distinguished Service to the Military and Veterans

Linda Klein is the immediate past president for the American Bar Association (ABA). As ABA president, she led the association’s efforts to expand legal services for veterans, preserve federal funding for legal aid for the poor, and provide civics education through community Law Day events nationwide. She previously served as chair of the ABA’s House of Delegates, the association’s policymaking body. In 2009 Ms. Klein was honored with the Randolph Thrower Award for Lifetime Achievement and was named to the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers. In 2004 the American Bar Association honored Ms. Klein with the prestigious Margaret Brent Achievement Award. Ms. Klein has authored numerous published works. Her lecture schedule has included presentations in France, Sweden, Spain, Russia, Great Britain and Canada, but most extensively in the southeast United States. She is a member of the American Law Institute, and a mediator and arbitrator, frequently serving as a neutral as well as a client advocate. Her impressive professional biography can be viewed at https://www.bakerdonelson.com/linda-a-klein.