



Contact:
Mary Flannery
215.937.5424
mary.flannery@phl.org

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PHL Airport General Counsel Receives Distinguished Public Service Award

Joseph Messina recognized by International Municipal Lawyers Association

PHILADELPHIA – The International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) presented Divisional Deputy City Solicitor Joseph F. Messina with its Joseph I. Mulligan, Jr. Distinguished Public Service Award for his work on behalf of Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and the City of Philadelphia in forging an agreement between the City and Tinicum Township, Delaware County and Interboro School District earlier this year. Messina, the Airport's General Counsel, was honored at the Association's 80th Annual Conference in Las Vegas, which concludes tomorrow.

Established in 1935, IMLA (formerly the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers) is a non-profit, professional organization based in the Washington D.C. area, which serves as an advocate and provides valuable legal resource for local government attorneys. Joseph I. Mulligan, Jr. Distinguished Public Service Award was established to recognize a local government attorney for significant and surpassing achievements in the field of local government law occurring or culminating in the previous year.

"I am very grateful for Joe Messina's leadership and hard work. His unique combination of legal experience, training and character has contributed greatly to ensuring that our International Airport can continue to develop and thrive," said City Solicitor Shelley R. Smith. "Joe is very deserving of the IMLA's Distinguished Public Service Award for 2015."

Messina, who has been Divisional Deputy City Solicitor since October 1999, was recognized for his ability to resolve outstanding issues with three neighboring political jurisdictions that led to a four-party settlement agreement. In 2010, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAAQ) approved a Capacity Enhancement Program (CEP) for decreasing flight delays by adding and improving runways at PHL. The CEP required a new runway, extensions of existing runways, and transferring important Airport facilities. Messina directed the Airport through FAA's approval of the CEP along with related lawsuits and appeals that followed.

More



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Messina/2

“I want to thank IMLA for honoring Joe with this distinguished award. Joe’s brilliant mind is one of the best in his profession. He supervises an amazing team of attorneys who provide the daily legal counseling for all Airport activities,” said Airport CEO Mark Gale. “This settlement was significant to the City of Philadelphia and PHL as the acquisition of property in Tinicum was vital to the success of the CEP.”

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This year, Philadelphia International Airport celebrates the 75th anniversary of its commercial air service. In 1940, the Airport served 40,000 passengers flying to a handful of cities. Today, more than 30 million passengers travel annually to 131 destinations around the world.

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.