



South Carolina Broadcasters Association to Present 2018 Awards of Distinction

John Cessarich, Jay Bender, and Rich O'Dell

The South Carolina Broadcasters Association will present its most prestigious awards to John Cessarich, Jay Bender, and Rich O'Dell on Thursday, January 25, 2018 during their Awards of Distinction Dinner at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

John Cessarich, a meteorologist in the Upstate for the last 26 years, will be honored with the Masters Award for outstanding achievement as an on-air broadcaster. John's work has earned him numerous awards and recognitions. He is a seven-time recipient of the SCBA's Television Personality of the Year and an eight-time winner of the Southeast Regional EMMY for Best Weathercaster.

Jay Bender, attorney for SCBA since 1995, will be honored with the Honorary Life Membership Award. Jay has built a national reputation as a lawyer for broadcasters, and is regarded as South Carolina's foremost authority on the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Since beginning his media law practice in 1975, Bender has appeared in a multitude of trial and appellate courts, both federal and state, to advocate press-related cases.

Rich O'Dell, Past President of the SCBA and the SCBA Educational Foundation, will be honored with the Hall of Fame award. Rich has been President and General Manager at WLTX-TV since 1999. Prior to joining the WLTX-TV team, he served as the Director of Programming and Production at WKYC in Cleveland, Ohio, Producer and Director at WDXR in Paducah, Kentucky and Producer and Director at WSIU (Southern Illinois University).

Rich is also the recipient of the 2012 SCBA Honorary Life Membership Award.

To learn more about the award criteria or the Awards of Distinction Dinner, visit our website at www.scba.net or contact the SCBA office at 803-732-1186 or paula@scba.net.