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John M. Nolan  
Chair, Member Selection Committee  
c/o American College of Real Estate Lawyers  
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Re: Crotwell (MS) Second - Ogletree

Dear Mr. Nolan:

It is with great pleasure that I second the nomination of Danny Crotwell for membership in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers made by Joy Phillips.

I have received and reviewed the Proposal for Membership submitted by Joy Phillips and certify that Danny Crotwell ("Danny") satisfies the criteria for selection to the College as set forth in Section 4 of the Guidelines for Regular Member Selection. In my opinion and to my knowledge, the Nominee satisfies ACREL's Statement of Professionalism and exemplifies the standards of professional integrity and civility as provided in the Guidelines. I am not (a) in the same firm, business entity, faculty or other organization as the Nominee, (b) related by birth or marriage to the Nominee, or (c) a current Governor or member of the Member Selection Committee of the College. Except as disclosed below, neither the nominee nor his/her employer regularly employs or retains me or my law firm or employer, and my business relationship, if any, with the nominee is as follows:

1. My firm has a title agency agreement with Fidelity National Title Insurance Company ("Fidelity"), Danny's employer. Most of our work with Fidelity is with national underwriting counsel due to our projects being referred from national commercial sources. We have worked with Danny on some occasions in the past and found him to provide excellent title insurance services. Fidelity has less than 5% of the business of the Jackson office of my firm where I reside and practice law. Most of our title insurance work is with other companies due to my firm's historic relationships with those companies and the work they refer to us.

2. My firm previously ordered title insurance policies directly from Stewart Title Guaranty Co. ("Stewart"), a prior employer of Danny. I did not personally utilize his services but others in my firm have done so while Danny was with Stewart and they were pleased with the work. The work referred to Stewart was less than 5% of the business of the Jackson office of my firm.

I have known Danny for over 25 years. I received and reviewed the Seconding Letter of Rod Clement. I join in the comments of Joy Phillips in the Proposal for Membership and in the Seconding Letter of Rod Clement. I will not repeat in detail the information contained in those documents other than to expound on some of the information they shared.

First, Danny is held in high regard by the members of the Mississippi Bar. When talking to lawyers about title insurance underwriters, all lawyers I know held Danny in high regard. They may admit that he does not always agree to remove a title exception or delete a title requirement they view as troublesome, but they understand and respect his position and continue to go back to him for title insurance services.

Second, Danny has performed invaluable service to the Mississippi Bar. He served as Chair of the Real Estate Section of the Mississippi Bar. While working with the Bar, he worked closely with the legislature on revising provisions in the Mississippi Code as to the priority of purchase money mortgages and adding curative provisions in our law as to defective acknowledgements. Danny also assisted the Bar in being one of the co-authors of the Mississippi Title Examination Standards. Although most states have relied upon title insurance standards for decades, Mississippi real estate lawyers were reluctant to adopt standards that may serve as an outline for plaintiff's lawyers filing malpractice actions. Danny was a calming and instructive voice in the debate that resulted in overwhelming support for the adoption of the standards. Looking back on that time, it is clear Danny had vision and exhibited leadership that improved the practice of real estate in Mississippi. His respected comments on the Mississippi Bar Real Estate Section Listserv has been well described by Joy and Rod but cannot be overemphasized.

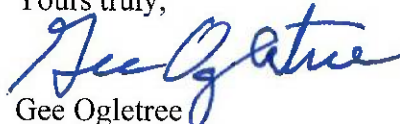
Third, Danny is a great teacher of real estate law. Having been a pupil in one of his teaching sessions with the Mississippi Bar, I can attest that he brings that rare combination of intellect, analysis and humor that makes the instruction time pass quickly while leaving those who attended with solid tips on how to improve their practice. He would fit in well on an ACREL title insurance panel.

Fourth, Danny is a leader. In addition to his service as Chair of the Real Estate Section of the Mississippi Bar, he has served as president of the Southeast Land Title Association (serving Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi) and the Land Title Association of Mississippi (serving our state). I am not actively involved in either group but have partners who are and they speak highly of his leadership of both groups.

Fifth, Danny gives back. Danny has given back to the bar, to real estate trade groups, and to the community (with his work on behalf of the Canton Flea Market Semi-Annual Arts & Crafts Show and Rosie's Garden). His numerous writings and lectures give back to the practicing real estate lawyers in Mississippi.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions concerning the nomination of Danny Crotwell for membership in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

Yours truly,



Gee Ogletree

cc: Joy Phillips  
Rod Clement