



## 2021 HCCP of the Year –Thomas Stagg

*Written by Scott Michael Dunn, CEO/Owner Costello Compliance*

“I would like to go off script here.”

It was many hours into a public IRS hearing on an important proposed regulation. There had been much prepared testimony from some very competent players in the industry. With those words, Thomas Stagg changed the course of the discussion and effectively addressed what the IRS representatives actually seemed to be concerned with, although their words were not put into terms that would be commonly used in the housing industry.

At the time of this writing, the final outcome for the specific issue discussed at the hearing is unresolved, but in that moment (and in the lively discussion that followed), Thomas demonstrated an advanced ability to communicate effectivity under pressure — to understand the words a person uses and what they are actually trying to ask, even if they do not know how to frame the issues themselves. For this and many other skills that he uses every day to support housing, Thomas deserves the HCCP of the Year designation.

Over the years, Thomas and I have worked closely on many panel discussions, conferences and Compliance Summits. I have treasured many “nerdy” compliance discussions with him. It is a rare mind that can make trends in income limits fascinating. He is insightful, kind and smart, and it doesn’t hurt that he is also very funny. This rare combination of ingredients with an easy smile makes for an effective communicator and trainer.

As he is a CPA, I’m told that he also finds time to do quality accounting! The firm with which Thomas is a partner, Novogradac, is well-known for important advocacy on issues vital to the housing industry, and Thomas enthusiastically supports those efforts. I think that the industry is undeniably better off for Thomas’ presence.

I have known almost all the HCCP of the Year awardees and can think of none more worthy of the designation. To Thomas, I say thank you for what you do to further the important mission of housing — and who you are. This award is well-deserved!