



HAIL TO THE CHIEF



And he does solemnly swear to take a great picture? That's CB Richard Ellis' **John Ferguson** taking the oath as the 2011 president of the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors while being sworn in by CBRE's **Leigh Martin**. The transition from Joel & Granot's **Alan Joel** to John came during the Board's **annual meeting** at the Intercontinental Hotel in Buckhead on Friday. The holiday **party** brought out more than **300** of the industry's best and brightest. John, in his acceptance speech, says he hopes to focus on enhancing the board's **educational** offerings, continuing to improve **technology advances**, and pushing both **government affairs** and **community support**. Athens' favorite son (his family owns the famed **Dick Ferguson's** men's clothing store near the UGA campus), John noted that there's been a small influx of **new brokers** into the industry due to the poor economy that's creating a "**void**" of younger, new talent in the industry: "We're going to have to promote that next generation."



One of the industry's greatest networkers—Grubb & Ellis' **Brett “Mr. Schmooze” Hunsaker**—won Realtor of the Year. We caught the beaming Brett (center) with Grubb & Ellis' **Steve Dils** and Alan. “This guy is bigger than life,” Steve told the audience. “But I don't think people realize what a **workhorse** he is.” Realtor of the Year was the **crown award** during the ceremony but others were given honors: Selig Enterprises' **Scott Selig** (President's Award); Veenendaalcave (Affiliate of the Year); LaVista Associates' **Heather Lamb**, (Young Realtor of the Year); and Lee & Associates' **Craig Viergever**, (Community Service Award for his work with Bright Futures).



This isn't the **Grinch** stealing Christmas. It's **Alan Joel** again, along with 2011 president-elect **Furman Wood** and Fidelity Bank's **Craig Hall** (who also chairs the board's community service committee). They aren't toying around too much when it comes to the ACBR's **toy drive**. Here's they're showcase all the bats, balls, puzzles, dolls, and games the Board gathered that morning, which will be donated to various toy **charities**.



We also ran into **Al Sapoznick**, the former Ackerman & Co. broker, who's now **celebrating** one year with his own company, 1st Global Realty. "It's actually turned out real nicely," Al tells us. In fact, Al's looking to **hire** a handful of new brokers to his firm in 2011. That's always good news.