

St. Augustine Distillery Founder Philip McDaniel Receives Prestigious DISCUS Award



On February 18, 2020, more than 350 alcohol beverage industry leaders from across America gathered to attend the first ever *Inaugural Spirits Industry Conference* convened by the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS). At a celebratory dinner for conference attendees held that evening, DISCUS' leadership – comprising some of the most famous and important distillers from across America – bestowed the **Dave Pickerell Memorial Craft Member of the Year** award to St. Augustine Distillery co-founder and chief executive officer **Philip McDaniel**.

The DISCUS Dave Pickerell Memorial Craft Member of the Year award is in memory of [Dave Pickerell](#), the “Johnny Appleseed of craft distilling” and is awarded to a leader in advancing the craft distiller community and supporting the association with its advocacy efforts. Dave Pickerell played an integral role in kick-starting the modern craft spirits movement, mentoring and consulting for over 100 distilleries around the world.

In parallel, Philip McDaniel has been a driving force in the creation, and successful growth, of Florida's craft distillery industry. As the co-founder and CEO of St. Augustine Distillery, Philip has helped lead local, state legislative and federal initiatives to grow Florida's burgeoning craft spirits industry. Since opening in 2014, St. Augustine has become one of the most visited distilleries in America, hosting more than 600,000 visitors and winning numerous national and international spirit awards.

According to [Richard Blau](#), the chair of GrayRobinson's [Nationwide Alcohol Industry Team](#), Philip McDaniel has been indispensable to the success of Florida's craft distilling industry. “*Having worked with Philip for many years, I know first-hand how important he's been to Florida's craft distillery culture -- as an innovator, community advocate and forward-looking leader.*” True to the spirit of the Dave Pickerell award, Philip McDaniel continues to expand Florida's quality of life and local economy, while steering St. Augustine Distillery on a path towards a new kind of legacy blending economic development and social good.

GrayRobinson congratulates Philip McDaniel on his prestigious award! For more information on St. Augustine Distillery, visit their Website at: <http://staugustinedistillery.com/>