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For Immediate Release:

CDEL celebrates 40th Anniversary at “Light Up the Loop” Winter Awards Benefit

The Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) will celebrate its 40th Anniversary at the 2024 “Light Up the Loop” Winter Awards Benefit, which takes place on February 29th at the Chicago law firm of Baker McKenzie.

In addition to celebrating four decades of accomplishments, it will honor and celebrate its 2024 Award Winners, which includes Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, who will receive CDEL’s prestigious Impact Award and who will speak at the event.

Chicago Bar Association President Ray J. Koenig, a Partner at Clark Hill PLC, and David J. Malliband, Managing Partner at Baker McKenzie LLP’s Chicago Office, are serving as Honorary Winter Award Benefit Co-Chairs.

Terri Ahrens, Interim Associate General Counsel at US Foods, Inc., and Immediate Past President of CDEL’s Board of Directors, is serving as Winter Awards Benefit Event Chair and Todd Patterson, Managing Counsel – Commercial Transactions at United Airlines, Inc., who is also a CDEL Board Member, is serving as Benefit Vice Chair.

The annual fundraiser will begin at 5:30p.m. with food, cocktails, and networking with CDEL’s supporters, staff, board members, dignitaries, and friends in Baker McKenzie’s incredible lobby with sweeping lake and city views on the 50th floor at 300 E. Randolph Street.

Theresa Jaffe, CDEL Board President and President of Theresa Jaffe Consulting, established CDEL’s “Light Up the Loop” Winter Awards Benefit event in 2012. “Terri Ahrens and Todd Patterson have done a tremendous job of leading this year’s milestone event. We are thrilled to celebrate 40 years of disability rights accomplishments by CDEL; its many milestones and unprecedented growth; and our deserving Award Winners,” Ms. Jaffe said.

“We are proud to celebrate and recognize our 2024 Award Winners and the incredible accomplishments of CDEL over the last year. We are excited to kick off our 40th Anniversary celebrations with CDEL supporters and look forward to an inspiring evening as we share CDEL’s accomplishments and the rich history of CDEL over the past four decades.” Caroline Manley, CDEL Executive Director

In addition to presenting the Impact Award to President Preckwinkle, CDEL will present two other awards: The Partner of the Year Award will be presented to Jenner & Block LLP, and the Volunteers of the Year Award will be presented to Ankoor Bagchi, WiPro and Bob Goldman, Accenture US.

CDEL is thrilled to announce its generous sponsors:

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[About CDEL](#)

In its 40-year history, more than 30,000 people with disabilities and low-income senior citizens have been provided free legal services from CDEL, with its staff of eighteen team members, and hundreds of volunteer lawyers. Those services include adult guardianship, landlord/tenant disputes, end of life planning, divorce, financial elder abuse, consumer fraud, property tax, and assistance at the Pro Se Adult Guardianship Help Desk. In addition, CDEL runs workshops and assists seniors with end-of-life planning and housing preservation.

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