

Feb. 9, 2023

For Immediate Release:

CDEL's "Light Up the Loop" Winter Awards Benefit Returns In Person on Feb. 23, 2023

The Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) is proud to announce the return of its in-person Annual "Light Up the Loop" Winter Awards Benefit on February 23, 2023, at the Chicago law firm of Baker McKenzie.

CDEL will honor and celebrate its 2023 Award Winners and its remarkable accomplishments during the past year. The fundraiser will begin at 5:30p.m. with great food, cocktails and networking with CDEL's supporters, staff, board members and friends -- all with the backdrop of Baker McKenzie's incredible views from its lobby on the 50th floor at 300 E. Randolph Street.

Chicago Bar Association President Timothy S. Tomasik, a Partner at Tomasik Kotin Kasserman, and David J. Malliband, Managing Partner at Baker McKenzie LLP's Chicago Office, are serving as Honorary Co-Chairs.

Andrew Lillis, a Partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP is serving as Winter Awards Benefit Event Chair and Terri Ahrens, Interim Associate General Counsel at US Foods, Inc. and Immediate Past President of CDEL's Board of Directors, is serving as Benefit Vice Chair.

Theresa Jaffe, CDEL Board President and President of Theresa Jaffe Consulting, established CDEL's "Light Up the Loop" Winter Awards Benefit event in 2012. "We are proud and grateful for our event's growth through the years," stated Ms. Jaffe. "Our Board Members Andy Lillis and Terri Ahrens have done a superb job of leading this year's effort. We are thrilled to be back in-person to honor our Award winners and provide a wonderful winter networking destination for Chicagoland's legal, business, judicial and governmental communities."

Three awards will be given during the fundraiser:

The Impact Award will be presented to **Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough**

Karen Yarbrough's office was key in establishing the Cook County Clerk's Help Desk, a monthly, in-person space where residents can receive no-cost assistance with common questions about documents frequently recorded at the Cook County Clerk's Office that the office is unable to address due to restrictions. Clerk Yarbrough's office assembled a coalition to craft the shape and timing of the Help Desk, also providing the space and supplies.

The Partner of the Year Award will be presented to **Astellas Pharma US**

Since 2017, Astellas Pharma US has partnered with CDEL, initially in Power of Attorney Workshops. Over the past two years the company has become more involved and participated in an estate-planning workshop and with CDEL's Mobile Guardianship Help Desk. During the pandemic Astellas Pharma US continued to be involved in remote programming and engaged volunteers throughout the United States.

Volunteers of the Year Award will be presented to Baker McKenzie Attorneys: Shane Kelly, Addison Braendel, and Crofton Kelly, and to Attorney Stephen S. Phalen of The Law Offices of Stephen S. Phalen,

LLC, who have each shown tremendous commitment to CDEL's clients and mission through their tireless work in assisting a 93-year-old client who was defrauded out of her home and faced foreclosure.

In addition, CDEL is thrilled to announce our generous sponsors:

Platinum Sponsor: Baker McKenzie LLP.

Gold Level Sponsors: Corboy & Demetrio, Kirkland & Ellis LLP; Law Bulletin Media; Locke Lord LLP; Perkins Coie LLP; Seyfarth Shaw LLP; The Sidley Austin Foundation; and United Airlines

Silver Level Sponsors: Aon; BMO; Chapman and Cutler LLP; Faegre Drinker; Pathway to Living; and Philip H. Corboy Foundation

Bronze Level Sponsors: AT&T; Bauch & Michaels, LLC; Cornerstone Research; Crowell & Moring LLP; Jenner & Block LLP; Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP; LexisNexis; McDermott Will & Emery LLP; Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP; State Farm Insurance Companies; Troutman Pepper LLP; Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP; and Zurich North America

“We have an impressive and generous group of companies and law firms that have joined us already as sponsors,” stated Caroline Manley, CDEL’s Executive Director. “This is our eleventh “Light Up the Loop” Winter Awards Benefit and we look forward to an inspiring evening as we celebrate our well-deserving Award winners,” added Ms. Manley.

[About CDEL](#)

In its 39-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 thirteen 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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