

CDEL to Host 2021 Virtual “Light Up the Loop” Winter Awards Benefit

February 8, 2021

The Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) will hold its Virtual 2021 Winter Awards Benefit, “Light Up the Loop,” on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 to congratulate its Award Winners and celebrate CDEL's remarkable accomplishments during the pandemic.

Chicago Bar Association President Maryam Ahmad, who serves as Chief of the Juvenile Justice Bureau in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and David J. Malliband, Managing Partner of Baker McKenzie LLP's Chicago Office, are serving as Honorary Co-Chairs.

Thomas Doherty, Head of Business Banking at CIBC, is serving as Winter Awards Benefit Event Chair and Allison Disney, Co-Founder and Partner at Receptor Brands, is serving as Benefit Vice Chair.

Three awards will be given during the benefit:

The Impact Award will be presented to Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC), which works to address the needs arising from the Auburn Gresham neighborhood's high rate of low-income senior homeowners and poverty. The pandemic sent GAGDC into overdrive with increased community needs, including the struggle for racial justice.

The Corporate Partner of the Year Award will be presented to Chapman and Cutler LLP, a CDEL partner for many years, which proactively reached out to CDEL early in the pandemic to offer its services to create automated forms for estate planning and other purposes.

The Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented to Karen Boyd, Libby Wood, Ken Shiner and Catharine Taylor-Cappel. These four volunteers have collectively donated hundreds of pro bono hours to CDEL and were all instrumental to helping CDEL launch remote programming due to the pandemic.

“We are seeing increased needs for our services as our clients who are low-income seniors and people with disabilities struggle not only with their existing needs, but also with the health issues and stresses resulting from the pandemic,” said CDEL Executive Director Caroline Manley. “CDEL volunteers and staff have exhibited tremendous creativity and dedication to maintaining our services to our clients throughout Chicago and Cook County. Through outdoor clinics and remote services, our clients continue to be served. The Winter Awards Benefit is CDEL's signature fundraising event, and it is critical for our operations to continue,” said Ms. Manley. “We deeply appreciate everyone's support.”

Aware of the challenging time for many companies due to COVID-19, CDEL is also appreciative of the support of its sponsors.

“We have an impressive and generous group of companies and law firms that have joined us already as sponsors,” stated CDEL President Terri L. Ahrens, Assistant General Counsel at US Foods. “We look forward to an inspiring event as we honor our very deserving awardees and share with the public the good work they are doing. These are unprecedented times and we owe our sponsors a debt of gratitude for their incredible

generosity in supporting CDEL during these challenging times,” stated Ms. Ahrens. “For the past ten years in late February the CDEL Winter Awards Benefit has been hosted by Baker McKenzie in their spectacular 50th floor lobby. While we will certainly miss being physically together, we are deeply grateful for Baker McKenzie’s continued support as our Platinum Sponsor. Our Winter Awards Benefit Committee is working tirelessly to make CDEL’s first-ever virtual fundraiser a financial success and an event that is meaningful and memorable.”

The 2021 CDEL Winter Benefit **Platinum Sponsor** is [Baker & McKenzie LLP](#).

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The CDEL Virtual Winter Awards Benefit will be held from 4:30-5PM on February 24, 2021. This is a complimentary event but [online registration](#) is required. The public is welcome to attend.

About CDEL In its 37-year history, more than 30,000 people with disabilities and senior citizens have been provided free legal services from CDEL, with its staff of six attorneys, two paralegals, and hundreds of volunteer lawyers. Those services include adult guardianship, landlord/tenant disputes, end of life planning, divorce, financial elder abuse, consumer fraud, mortgage fraud and property tax, and assistance at the Pro Se Adult Guardianship Help Desk. In addition, CDEL runs workshops and assists seniors with powers of attorney for healthcare and property, and living will declarations.

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