

For Immediate Release:

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CDEL to Host 2022 Virtual “Light Up the Loop” Winter Awards Benefit

The Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) will hold its Virtual 2022 Winter Awards Benefit, “Light Up the Loop,” on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022, to congratulate its Award Winners and celebrate CDEL's remarkable accomplishments.

E. Lynn Grayson, a Partner at Nijman Franzetti LLP and President of the Chicago Bar Association, and David J. Malliband, Managing Partner of Baker McKenzie LLP’s Chicago Office, are serving as Honorary Co-Chairs.

Allison Disney, Co-Founder and Partner at Receptor Brands, is serving as Winter Awards Benefit Chair, and Andrew Lillis, a Partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP, is serving as Winter Awards Benefit Vice Chair.

Three awards will be given during the benefit:

The Impact Award will be presented to Commissioner Larry Suffredin, who has served on the Cook County Board since 2002 and was the sponsor of three Cook County Ordinances, which permanently reduced the filing fees for Transfer on Death Instruments (TODs). CDEL drafted these ordinances and was fortunate to have Commissioner Suffredin champion them before the Cook County Board.

The Corporate Partner of the Year Award will be presented to Salesforce, which first partnered with CDEL in 2018 and has grown into the participation of more than 20 Salesforce attorneys who have volunteered at Power of Attorney workshops, property tax calls, and the Housing Preservation Project.

The **Volunteer of the Year Award** will be presented to Toya Horn Howard, a volunteer at CDEL’s Adult Guardianship Help Desk for five years. When CDEL’s Daley Center help desk closed, she was enthusiastic about continuing her volunteer activities at our new remote help desk. In 2019, alone, she volunteered 140 hours, and already this year, she has served more than 20 families

“We are seeing continued increased needs for our services as our clients are low-income seniors and people with disabilities. They continue to struggle not only with existing needs, but also with health issues and stresses resulting from the pandemic,” said CDEL Executive Director Caroline Manley. “We could not adequately provide services to them without the instrumental support of CDEL volunteers.”

As challenges continue for all businesses during the pandemic, CDEL is also truly appreciative of the financial support of its sponsors.

“We have an incredible group of companies and law firms that joined us early-on as benefit sponsors this year,” said CDEL President Terri L. Ahrens, Assistant General Counsel at US Foods. “We are grateful for their support and look forward to an inspiring event as we honor our very deserving awardees.”

The 2022 CDEL Winter Benefit **Platinum Sponsor** is [Baker & McKenzie LLP](#).

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CDEL’s annual Winter Benefit Raffle will be held online and will include a fabulous vacation package, as well as great tickets to Chicago sports events.

The CDEL Virtual Winter Awards Benefit will be held from 4:30-5PM on February 22, 2022. This is a complimentary event but [online registration](#) is required. The public is welcome to attend.

About CDEL

In its 38-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.

Read more about “Light Up the Loop” on [CDEL’s website](#).

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