



CARPLS GOLDEN GAVEL CELEBRATION

September 8, 2020 - Chicago, Ill. - CARPLS, Chicago's largest provider of free legal aid, will hold its annual **Golden Gavel Celebration on October 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., as both an in-person and virtual celebration.** CARPLS will honor Sean Gallagher, of Bartlit Beck LLP, with the Ralph A. Gabric Award, and Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry, of Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, with the Golden Gavel Award.

CARPLS has helped lead the legal aid community's response to overwhelming and evolving demands for debt, unemployment, evictions, family law, wills, and many more issues. Since the beginning of 2020, CARPLS created or helped to build five new projects—four of which are now statewide. CARPLS is pleased to celebrate the many contributions to pro bono and the organization made by both Honorees.

Bill Lowry is a lifelong Chicago south-sider and Cook County's Commissioner of the 3rd District. An attorney and president of the law firm Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, Commissioner Lowry has practiced law for over 30 years. Commissioner Lowry has served on numerous boards, including the Boards of Lake Forest College and Loyola University School of Law, where he served as the past Chair of the law school's Board of Governors.

Commissioner Lowry collaborates with his colleagues to provide workforce development and job placement. Commissioner Lowry understands the importance of developing strategies to keep children out of the criminal justice system. One of his premier pieces of legislation called the Good Faith Effort Transparency Report provides governmental transparency and promotes participation for M/W/PBEs (minority, women, and people with disability business enterprises).

Bill Lowry served on CARPLS Board of Directors from 2001-2007 and now sits on CARPLS Advisory Board.

"I have always been impressed with his passion to serve others and his ability to meet people where they are at and effortlessly push them to think bigger about the deep needs of our community," Allen Schwartz, CARPLS Executive Director, said. "He recently came and spoke to our staff during a training on structural racism and they fell in love with his dedication and leadership. Whether as managing partner or as a volunteer or as a Cook County Commissioner, there is no question that Bill is hands on in making a difference in peoples' lives. He is the embodiment of the Golden Gavel Award."

Sean Gallagher is an accomplished trial lawyer with experience across a broad range of complex commercial litigation matters. Sean has also worked on a variety of other matters ranging from *Gore v. Bush*, where Sean was part of the Bartlit Beck team that represented President Bush at the trial court level, to *Newsome v. McCabe*, where Sean helped obtain compensation for a man wrongfully convicted of murder. Sean is also a nationally recognized attorney. He is Chambers ranked and listed as a "Litigation Star"

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by Benchmark Litigation. Sean joined the firm in 1996 directly from a clerkship for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the Supreme Court of the United States, before which he served as law clerk to Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Sean served on CARPLS Board of Directors from 2010-2021, including serving as Board President. During his tenure, CARPLS expanded its programming statewide to provide veterans civil legal needs, which served as a bridge to additional program expansions during the pandemic. He was also instrumental in leading the board to expand resources for the organization, which led to our \$1.5 million 25th Anniversary Campaign in 2019.

“The Ralph A. Gabric award is only given periodically for special CARPLS champions,” Allen Schwartz said. “Sean tends to be understated and has a quiet leadership style that has been integral to the board and the organization. He is the calm in the storm with the many changes we see happening in terms of the services and resources that are needed most. Sean now serves on the Advisory Board, but he is never far away.”

CARPLS is grateful to its 40+ sponsors and donors for making this year’s event possible. CARPLS also wants to provide special recognition to the following top tier sponsors:

- Presenting Sponsors: Bartlit Beck LLP
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Register for your in-person ticket or reserve your free virtual ticket. Sponsorships and donations are welcome. www.carpls.org/golden-gavel/.

About CARPLS

Serving 1 out of 4 legal aid cases in Cook County, CARPLS is the hub of the legal aid network by providing people with direct access to free attorney consultations. CARPLS resolves 85% of cases in-house and refers 15% of cases to more than 40 legal service partners.

CARPLS is also a lead partner with New Leaf Illinois, Eviction Help Illinois, Cook County Legal Aid for Housing & Debt Early Resolution Program, the Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network, and COVID HELP Illinois.

Contact

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