

Press Release

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Contact: Beth Winters, 717.234.7403
winters@pacdl.org

PACDL ANNOUNCED MICHAEL ENGLE AS RECIPIENT OF THE CHARLES P. GELSO'S PRESIDENT'S AWARD

(Harrisburg, PA, April 28, 2017) – The Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (PACDL) has selected partner Michael J. Engle of Stradley Ronon as the 2017 recipient of the Charles P. Gelso's President's Award. Mr. Engle was honored in Harrisburg at the 2017 Joint Annual Conference of PACDL, the Public Defenders Association of Pennsylvania and the Juvenile Defenders Association for his volunteer efforts and contributions to the success of PACDL. Mr. Engle has served as the Association's Continuing Legal Education Chairperson and is a Past President of the Association and Past Chairperson of the Philadelphia Chapter of PACDL. He currently serves as a co-chairperson of PACDL's White Collar Committee and helped build the White Collar Practice seminar as the pre-eminent training for white collar practitioners in the Philadelphia region. Philip Gelso, outgoing President of the Association, stated, "Mr. Engle is a strong supporter of Association projects and lends his deep experience and knowledge for the betterment of the Association and practitioners."

PACDL also announced other recipients including:

- **The Alan Jay Josel Advocacy Award:** Paul H. Titus and Arleigh P. Helfer, III, Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, Philadelphia and Peter Goldberger, Law Office of Peter Goldberger, Ardmore were recognized for their amicus work before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the case of Kuren, et al v. Luzerne County. Outgoing president Philip Gelso stated, "The work of the amicus volunteers in the Kuren case is an inspiration. The Kuren case, is landmark decision and recognized that 'for the first time in Pennsylvania a prospective cause of action enabling indigent criminal defendants to prove that the level of funding provided by a county to operate a public defender's office has left that office incapable of complying with Gideon, creating a systemic, widespread constructive denial of counsel in contravention of the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution.'"
- **The Liberty Award:** Leonard Sosnov, Emeritus Professor of Law at Widener's Delaware campus was recognized for his devotion to the principles of liberty and equal justice under the law. Over the course of his career, he has educated and inspired countless law students and practitioners to improve the practice of criminal law. He has also made a significant difference through his strong appellate advocacy concerning search and seizure, mandatory minimum and other issues of critical importance to the criminal defense profession.

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- **President’s and Directors’ Commendation:** MacElree Harvey partner Peter E. Kratsa of West Chester was announced as the 2017 President’s and Directors’ Commendation Award Recipient. According to Philip Gelso, 2015-2017 President, “Peter Kratsa was selected for lending his exceptional talents to further the goals of PACDL. Most recently, he offered his superior insights as an editor and writer of the Association’s premier criminal defense publication *For The Defense*.” Gelso noted, “Peter also contributes his time to PACDL’s Executive Committee and a variety of task forces and was named PACDL’s Vice President, Eastern District in 2016.” Peter E. Kratsa leads MacElree Harvey’s Corporate Compliance, Investigations and Criminal Defense Group. He has over 20 years of experience practicing law, focusing on criminal law in state and federal courts, state and federal grand jury investigations, internal investigations, appeals, as well as juvenile delinquency matters.

About PACDL. The Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is a not-for-profit association of criminal defense lawyers that are committed to equal justice under law. PACDL is the state advocate for its members, which includes nearly 1000 private criminal defense lawyers, public defenders and juvenile defenders. Founded in 1988, PACDL provides continuing legal education and advocates for criminal justice reform. For more information, visit www.pacdl.org.

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