

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PACDL Honors Outstanding Criminal Defense Advocates at Annual Awards Ceremony**

HARRISBURG, PA – The Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (PACDL) proudly recognizes the exceptional contributions of its members at the Annual Awards Ceremony held on April 4, 2025. This year’s honorees have demonstrated unwavering dedication, leadership, and advocacy in the pursuit of justice.

#### **The Liberty Award**

**Recipient: Patrick A. Casey**

Patrick A. Casey is honored with the Liberty Award for his outstanding leadership and service to PACDL. Over the past two years, his commitment to the organization has been instrumental in advancing PACDL’s mission. His vision and steadfast support have strengthened the association, ensuring it remains a powerful advocate for the criminal defense community.

“Beyond his professional contributions, Patrick’s willingness to be a sounding board and provide unwavering support during critical moments has been deeply appreciated. His leadership has left a lasting impact on PACDL and the legal profession,” said PACDL President Brian J. McMonagle.

#### **The Alan Jay Josel Advocacy Award**

**Recipient: Michael J. Engle**

Michael J. Engle receives the Alan Jay Josel Advocacy Award in recognition of his tireless dedication to justice, exemplified by his relentless three-year effort that led to the release of Bruce Murray after 41 years of wrongful imprisonment. His advocacy underscores the vital role of criminal defense attorneys in protecting the rights of the accused and upholding the principles of justice.

“As Theodore Roosevelt once said, ‘The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena...’ Michael embodies these words, demonstrating exceptional courage and dedication in his pursuit of justice,” said McMonagle.

#### **The Charles P. Gelso President’s Award**

**Recipient: Stanton D. Levenson**

Stanton D. Levenson is awarded the Charles P. Gelso President’s Award for his extraordinary dedication, leadership, and years of faithful service to PACDL. His contributions have strengthened the organization and advanced the cause of criminal defense advocacy across Pennsylvania.

#### **President’s and Directors’ Commendation**

PACDL also recognizes the exceptional service and leadership of the following individuals:

- **Jordan F. Barnett** – For exceptional leadership, advocating for criminal defense lawyers and driving positive change within the legal system.
- **Susan M. Lin** – For outstanding leadership, strengthening the profession and ensuring a fairer system through her advocacy on rule changes.
- **Ashley E. Shapiro** – For exceptional insight and leadership, shaping and improving the criminal rules that govern defense practice.
- **Lisa A. Mathewson** – For steadfast commitment to PACDL and the advancement of white collar defense through contributions to the White Collar Practice Seminar, amicus advocacy, and legal scholarship.

“These honorees exemplify the highest standards of legal advocacy and service to the profession. Their dedication has had a profound impact on the criminal defense community and the broader justice system,” said Brian McMonagle.

PACDL extends its heartfelt congratulations to all award recipients and thanks them for their continued commitment to justice and the defense of individual rights.

#### **About PACDL**

The Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (PACDL) is the premier organization for criminal defense attorneys in Pennsylvania, dedicated to promoting justice and due process for individuals accused of crimes. Through education, advocacy, and networking, PACDL supports the legal community in its mission to defend constitutional rights and ensure fair treatment for all.