



Press Release:

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Burton Awards Announces Leading General Counsel to be Honored as 2013 Legends in Law

New York, New York: The Burton Awards Program, held in association with the Library of Congress, announced the 2013 recipients of the “Legends in Law Awards.” These awards are given to outstanding general counsel of major corporations who have excelled during their careers in law. The fourteenth anniversary awards program will be held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. on June 3, 2013.

The following general counsel will be honored for their extraordinary careers in law:

Denise F. Keane, Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Altria Group, Inc.
Nominated by Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Betty A. Whelchel, General Counsel
BNP Paribas
Nominated by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Daniel Troy, Senior Vice President and General Counsel
GlaxoSmithKline
Nominated by Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP

Eric G. Klein, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Kyocera International, Inc.
Nominated by Morrison & Foerster LLP

J. Michael Wilder, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Marathon Petroleum Corporation
Nominated by Frost Brown Todd LLC

Edward A. “Ed” Ryan, Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Marriott International, Inc.
Nominated by Jenner & Block LLP

D. Cameron Findlay, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Medtronic, Inc.
Nominated by Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Felix R. Ehrat, PhD, Group General Counsel
Novartis International AG
Nominated by Kaye Scholer LLP

Brian Eduardo Cabrera, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Synopsis, Inc.
Nominated by Sidley Austin LLP

Shari H. Wolkon, Managing Director and General Counsel
Thomas H. Lee Partners
Nominated by Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Thomas L. Sager, Chairman of the Legends in Law Committee and Senior Vice President and General Counsel for DuPont Legal, and Les Parrette, Vice Chair of the Legends in Law Committee and Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Compliance Officer for Novelis Inc. stated jointly: "We are pleased to honor these distinguished general counsel as award winners in our 2013 program. Their accomplishments are stellar and warrant this special recognition."

The following criteria were used in making the selection of this year's "Legends in Law:" Reputation in the legal profession; demonstrated competence in a specialized area of law; extensive background and experience; complexity and scope of matters handled; success in global or national issues; and exemplary leadership in law. The winning general counsels were chosen from nominations received from managing partners in the nation's 1,000 largest law firms.

The Honorary Board of Directors of the Burton Awards Program includes: Judge Richard Posner, US Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit; Judge Alex Kozinski, US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit; Justice Carol A. Corrigan, California Supreme Court; Judge Judith S. Kaye, former Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals; US Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (Pennsylvania); US Senator Michael F. Bennet (Colorado); US Senator John Cornyn (Texas); US Senator Mike Crapo (Idaho); US Congressman Spencer Bachus (Alabama); Thomas L. Sager, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for DuPont Legal; and Les Parrette, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Compliance Officer for Novelis Inc; Keith C. Wetmore, Chair Emeritus, Morrison & Foerster LLP; Sabine Curto, Senior Director of Administration, Kirkland & Ellis LLP; Dennis Smith, Former Senator and Member of the Judiciary Committee, Missouri Legislature; and Stephen R. Mysliwicz, Partner, DLA Piper.

THE BURTON AWARDS PROGRAM

The Burton Awards is funded by the Burton Foundation which is a non-profit, academic effort devoted to recognizing and rewarding excellence in the legal profession. Since its inception in 1999, the organization has focused on great achievements in law, including accomplishments by general counsel, writing, public service and public interest. The program honors partners in law firms and law school students who use plain, clear and concise language in their writing.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

This prominent institution is one of the most celebrated and distinguished libraries in the world. It was established on April 24, 1800 and since that time has grown to become one of the largest repositories of books and materials. The Library of Congress functions as both a national library and as the research arm of the U.S. Congress. It contains more than 32 million catalogued books and more than 62 million manuscripts.

WILLIAM C. BURTON, ESQ.

The Founder and Chair of The Burton Awards for Legal Achievement is William C. Burton, Esq., a partner in the law firm of Sagat|Burton LLP. He is a former New York State Assistant Attorney General, a former New York State Assistant Special Prosecutor, and is the author of the first legal thesaurus ever written for the legal profession titled BURTON'S LEGAL THESAURUS, now in its 4th edition. The established reference tool is published by McGraw-Hill. When the book was released, it was recognized for being "one of the most innovative and creative tools of the year" by the Association of American Publishers. It has now been hailed as the most frequently used thesaurus in law. In 2011, Mr. Burton was presented the highest honor given by the second largest association of law professors in America, The Legal Writing Institute, for "significantly advancing the cause of legal writing in the profession of law." Even more recently, he was named the "Blackstone Award" winner by the Friends of the Law Library of Congress for embodying and promoting the best ideals of the venerable institution.