



CITY OF CHICAGO



BOARD OF ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Ethics

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**THE CHICAGO BOARD OF ETHICS' EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RECEIVE THE PRESTIGIOUS
2023 COGEL AWARD**

The Chicago Board of Ethics is proud to announce that our Executive Director, Steve Berlin, is the recipient of the 2023 COGEL Award. With more than 500 members throughout the U.S., Canada, and the English-speaking world, COGEL, the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws, is the largest organization dedicated to the administration and improvement of governmental ethics and related laws. The COGEL Award is COGEL's highest form of recognition—conferred upon individuals who have made significant, demonstrable, and positive contributions to COGEL's disciplines: ethics, campaign finance, elections, lobbying, and freedom of information. Past recipients include former President Jimmy Carter, former Senators Russell Feingold and the late John McCain and Carl Levin, and former New York City Conflicts of Interests Board Executive Director Mark Davies and Chair Richard Briffault. For more information, please see www.cogel.org. Steve will receive the award in early December at COGEL's annual conference in Kansas City, MO.

“The Board could not be prouder and more delighted that Steve's leadership and dedication are being recognized by his peers in government, private practice, and academia—the citizens of Chicago should know and appreciate his achievements over a long, distinguished career as a public servant,” commented the Board's Chair, William Conlon.

Steve, 64, was appointed as our Executive Director in 2008 by then-Mayor Richard M. Daley. Before that he was our Acting Executive Director, and began his City career in 1993 as our Deputy Director. In his 30+ years with us, he has co-authored and implemented many changes to the City's ethics, lobbying and campaign finance laws, under Mayors Daley, Emanuel, Lightfoot, and now Johnson, advised tens of thousands of City employees, officials, lobbyists, contractors, and others on complying with the letter and spirit of Chicago's ethics laws, served as COGEL's President in 2020, and in 2012 served as a U.S. State Dept. Fellow in the Republic of Georgia, advising officials there on establishing governmental ethics laws and institutions, and in 2011 Steve served on the Lt. Governor's committee to rewrite the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. He is a member of the Chicago Bar Association's Government Lawyer Committee, where he is a regular presenter.

Steve received his J.D. in 1984 from Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law, his B.A. in history, *cum laude*, from Amherst College in 1980, and his M.A. in Ethics from the University of Chicago's Divinity School in 1991. He began his legal career with Alheimer & Gray, then worked for what is now DLA Piper, both in Chicago. He also worked as Research Attorney for the American Judicature Society and as a Fellow with the Park Ridge Center for Health, Faith and Ethics. From 1991-2013, he taught Business Ethics at

Columbia College Chicago. He is the proud father of two adult daughters, and is both a Cubs and White Sox fan, living proof that this is indeed possible.

Please join us in congratulating Steve and celebrating this well-deserved award.

William Conlon, Esq., Chair

Ryan Cortazar, Esq.

David Daskal, Esq.

Norma Manjarrez, Esq.

The Hon. Barbara McDonald (Ret.)

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