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Charlton and Greenberger to Receive Awards at Annual WEJF Eisenberg Dinner; American Bar Association President-Elect Behnke to Provide Keynote

MADISON – **Michelle Behnke**, President-Elect of the American Bar Association, will be the keynote speaker at the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund's (WEJF) annual Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner to be held on Saturday, November 2 at Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel in Milwaukee.

Behnke has practiced law in Wisconsin for 35 years, including 26 as principal of her own law firm. Earlier this year, she joined Madison-based firm Boardman Clark LLP in their Business, Real Estate, and Estate Planning Practice Groups. Behnke began her term as ABA President-Elect in August and will assume the office of ABA President in August of 2025.

WEJF will honor Milwaukee attorney **Katherine Charlton** with the 2024 Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award. The Eisenberg Award honors those who have devoted considerable time, talents, or resources to the provision or advancement of pro bono civil legal aid in Wisconsin. Charlton was an attorney and shareholder at Hawks Quindel S.C. prior to her retirement in 2022. She has an extensive record of pro bono service during her legal career and has volunteered at the Milwaukee Justice Center since its inception in 2009. She also serves on the Milwaukee Justice Center's Advisory Board and was the first family law volunteer with experimental remote legal clinics in the summer of 2020.

WEJF will also recognize **Phyllis Greenberger** of Disability Rights Wisconsin with the Distinguished Service Award for 2023 for her exemplary record of legal service to underserved populations. Phyllis Greenberger is a Supervising Advocacy Specialist at Disability Rights Wisconsin, where she has been an advocate since 1990. She provides advocacy for individuals with disabilities and their families, with a particular focus on children with mental health needs. Her work includes individual advocacy at schools, hospitals, treatment centers and in the community, as well as systems advocacy, with an emphasis on better services for children and families.

About the Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner: The Eisenberg Dinner is the principal fundraising event for WEJF.

Registration for the dinner is open now on the WEJF website, <u>wejf.org/dinner-registration</u>.

 Sponsorships are also available for the event, and more info can be found at https://wejf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/WEJF-2024-Recognition-Levels-for-Corporate-Law-Firm-Supporters.pdf.

About Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund: The Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund (WEJF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Madison that raises funds to support three of the largest pro bono civil legal aid organizations in the state: Legal Action of Wisconsin, Judicare Legal Aid, and Disability Rights Wisconsin. WEJF's Board of Directors consists of 31 attorneys from private law firms and in-house legal departments across Wisconsin. Since its inception in 1997, WEJF has raised over \$7.7 million to help these organizations address civil legal problems such as domestic violence, housing and homelessness, and barriers to employment for Wisconsin's poorest citizens.

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