



Republican National Lawyers Association

P.O. Box 18965 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • Phone: (202) 802-0437 • <http://www.rnla.org>

For Immediate Release
May 18, 2017

Contact: Richard Kieselowski
(202) 802-0437

RNLA Congratulates its 2017 Award Winners **Donald McGahn and Linda A. Kerns**

Washington, D.C. — On May 5, 2017, the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) held their annual National Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. This year's theme was "Back to the Constitution" after the past eight years of the Obama Administration. This year's event was attended by hundreds of attorneys from across the country and was broadcast live on C-SPAN 2. Archived footage is [available here](#).

As part of the program, the RNLA awarded two of its prestigious awards. White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn II received the 2017 Ed Meese Award and Linda A. Kerns of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania received the 2017 Betty Murphy Award.

The Ed Meese Award is bestowed on an individual who has upheld the rule of law in the face of adverse political challenges.

Past Ed Meese Award winners are: Chuck Cooper; Dick Wiley; former Attorney General Michael Mukasey; former White House Counsel Fred Fielding; former Secretary Michael Chertoff; former Mayor Rudy Giuliani; then-Senator Jeff Sessions; Hans von Spakovsky; C. Boyden Gray; former Ambassador John Bolton; former Solicitor General Ted Olson; former Attorney General John Ashcroft; former Solicitor General Ken Starr; and former Attorney General Edwin Meese III, the award's namesake.

Don McGahn was selected for his hard work with President Trump's presidential campaign, where he expertly guided the innovative campaign to electoral victory without legal entanglements. He was also honored for his service as a Commissioner on the Federal Election Commission, where he fought for due process to protect the rights of citizens who wished to speak on political issues by requiring the agency to follow written procedures. As a Commissioner, he also enforced campaign finance laws and regulations as written, instead of according to the policy preferences of the Commissioners or vocal outside interest groups. Former Attorney General Edwin Meese personally presented Don with his award during the awards ceremony.

The Betty Murphy Award is given each year to an unsung hero, member, trailblazer, with entrepreneurial spirit, a community service leader, an organization builder who inspires others' efforts.

Past Betty Murphy Award winners have included: Kathryn Ciano of New York, Heather Heidelbaugh of Pennsylvania, Tom Spencer of Florida, and Brigida Benitez of Washington, D.C.

Linda Kerns was selected for her hard work, time, and dedication in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania during the 2016 Election. Linda is the Chair of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the RNLA and has worked tirelessly for years for Republican causes, with very little recognition. Linda has been labeled by Philadelphia media as an "all-star" election law lawyer. On Election Day, Linda helped to coordinate and supervise a number of RNLA volunteer attorneys and local election volunteers throughout the City of Philadelphia to help ensure a fair, open, and honest election.

Michael Thielen, the RNLA's Executive Director, said, "We congratulate Don McGahn and Linda Kerns on their hard work, dedication, and achievements."

The RNLA is the national organization of Republican attorneys. The mission of the RNLA is to advance professionalism; promote open, fair and honest elections; career opportunity; and Republican ideals. For more information, please visit <http://www.rnla.org>.

###