Justice Anne Burke Salutes Attorneys for Volunteer Efforts at Chicago Lighthouse’s Kane Legal Clinic

CHICAGO – Noting the immense satisfaction one gets in helping others, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke saluted local attorneys who volunteer their services at the Chicago Lighthouse’s Kane Legal Clinic.

She made her remarks during the third annual Kane Legal Clinic Luncheon held at the Union League Club on October 15.

Inspired by Lighthouse President Jim Kesteloot and Board Member Bruce Foudree, the clinic has assisted hundreds of people who are blind or visually impaired in combating discrimination in housing, transportation and other areas. It was established in 2005 and named in honor of distinguished philanthropist and respected attorney Arthur Kane and his wife Esther. Serving as clinic director is retired Cook County Judge Nicholas Pomaro who is totally blind himself. Aiding the Judge has been a dedicated group of attorneys and University of Chicago law students who serve on a pro-bono basis.

“You are to be commended for lending your time and expertise to the marvelous work done by this clinic,” Justice Burke said. “In the process, you are coming away with the satisfaction knowing that your efforts are making our community a better place!”
For her rousing and inspirational speech, she was presented with a specially engraved Chicago Lighthouse Clock by Judge Pomaro and Dr. Janet Szlyk, the Lighthouse’s new executive director.

“I am so very proud that you have joined us today,” the Judge said. “I also want to add my thanks to all the wonderful attorneys and students who have assisted me and succeeded in lifting the legal burdens off the shoulders of many of our program participants.”

Judge Pomaro also praised Mr. and Mrs. Kane who attended the luncheon for “their outstanding support and for graciously helping to sponsor the event.”

Among those who were aided by the clinic were David Haile of the Lighthouse’s VA program and Katie Howe who teaches Braille at the agency. Both gave moving accounts of how the Judge helped them.

The luncheon drew nearly 70 attendees, including Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Fitzgerald, federal Judge Charles Kocoras and many of Chicago-land’s top attorneys.

Also present was Chicago Lighthouse Board Chair William Conaghan as well as board members Bruce Foudree, Razz Jenkins, Paul Rink, Ted Mazola and Frank Chanen. Joining Mr. Chanen were his wife Doralu and their son Stuart. Stuart’s law firm, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, was a sponsor of the luncheon along with Locke Lord, Bissell & Liddell LLP. In addition, Sean Ziadeh of the Lighthouse’s Young Philanthropists Board was in attendance.

Another special guest was Nick Camboj of Microsoft.

For more information on the Kane Legal Clinic, call (312) 666-1331.