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Bar Association of Erie County Announces Its 2024 Award Winners, Kevin W. Spitler Selected as 2024 Lawyer of the Year

BUFFALO, NY – November 7, 2024 – Each year, the Bar Association of Erie County (BAEC) identifies particularly exceptional attorneys and judges in Erie County who have performed outstanding service to the community, the Bar Association, and the profession. This year’s Lawyer of the Year is Kevin W. Spitler, a Past President of both the Association and Erie County Bar Foundation. He is honored for tremendous contributions to the Buffalo community and his criminal defense practice.

The BAEC will recognize in total seven lawyers and judges.

Lawyer of the Year: Kevin W. Spitler (ret.), Past President of the Bar Association of Erie County and the Erie County Bar Foundation

The John T. Curtin Profiles in Courage Award (posthumously): Bernadette M. Hoppe, Attorney & Counselor at Law (2003-2019)

Outstanding Jurist Award: Hon. Shirley Troutman, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals

Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award: Kevin D. Walsh, Osborn, Reed & Burke LLP, BAEC Professional Continuity Chairman

Award of Merit: David A. Shapiro, Senior Attorney, Center for Elder Law & Justice

Special Service Awards: Stephanie J. Calhoun, NYS Attorney General’s Office, and Sharon Nosenchuck, Staff Attorney, Neighborhood Legal Services

The BAEC will be honoring these individuals during its 137th Annual Awards Celebration on November 14, 2024, at Seneca One Tower. Lauren E. Breen, President of the BAEC, said, “Law is not just a profession; it is a calling that bring us together in service to the people and communities we represent. This year’s honorees have each exemplified this

calling in their own unique ways. It is our privilege to celebrate their contributions and recognize the positive impact they continue to make.”

All are invited to our celebration. You can learn more about the Awards, sponsorship opportunities, the celebration event, and purchase tickets, by visiting the BAEC website at bit.ly/BAECAwards.

ABOUT THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF ERIE COUNTY

The Bar Association of Erie County (“BAEC” or “Association”), a not-for-profit professional association, was founded in 1887. The Association serves its members by educating, pursuing justice, and fostering camaraderie, well-being and belonging. The Association is a trusted voice and partner in the community, advocates for professional well-being and inclusion, and provides lawyers with the skills and tools to achieve excellence in the practice of law and pursuit of justice.

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