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**MCCA Announces the 2024 Charlotte E. Ray Award Honoree**

Today, the MCCA (the Minority Corporate Counsel Association) announced **Deneen Donnley** as the recipient of the 2024 Charlotte E. Ray Award.

The annual Charlotte E. Ray Award is presented to a woman lawyer for her exceptional achievements in the legal profession and extraordinary contribution to the advancement of women in the profession. The award's namesake Charlotte E. Ray was a legal pioneer and the first Black female lawyer in the United States. She graduated with a law degree from Howard University in 1872, and later that year joined the bar in Washington, D.C., where she opened her own practice. Charlotte's story is an inspiring one—of broken barriers, of perseverance, of achievement in the face of adversity.

This year's honoree, Deneen Donnley, holds over 20 years of experience as a strategic legal and business leader for various Fortune 500 companies. Deneen serves as the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Consolidated Edison, Inc., the energy company serving the 10 million people of New York City, Westchester, Orange, and Rockland counties. She manages the legal and compliance team and leads the "law department of the future" initiative to encourage cross-functional engagement and strategic partnership between lawyers. Deneen has also been instrumental in formalizing and enhancing Con Edison's Law Department Diversity & Inclusion Program, including HR practices, talent development, supplier diversity, metrics, and accountability for senior leaders.

Born in Harlem and raised in the Bronx, Deneen attended New York City public schools from grades K through 12. After completing her studies at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Deneen returned to New York, earning her Juris Doctor degree from Fordham University School of Law.

Deneen's dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion extends beyond words. Continuing the legacy of Charlotte E. Ray, Deneen actively supports the next generation of lawyers by serving as a mentor for countless attorneys from a diversity of backgrounds. She also continuously partners with MCCA to speak on issues related to women's advancement and supports our C-Suite Program by sharing her knowledge with our cohorts to help them develop into leading general counsel.



“Deneen Donnley exemplifies the very essence of the Charlotte E. Ray Award,” said **Jean Lee, President and CEO of MCCA**. “She leads with purpose as did Charlotte E. Ray to open doors for those who may not have had an opportunity; to create a future generation of lawyers who are committed to excellence in what they do and care about the community they serve. Deneen’s leadership is inspiring, and we are thrilled to recognize her as this year’s honoree.”

“We are proud to recognize Deneen Donnley as our 2024 Charlotte E. Ray honoree,” said **Wanji Walcott, Chief Legal and Business Affairs Officer at Pinterest and MCCA’s Board Chair**. “Deneen has consistently demonstrated excellence, leadership, and dedication throughout her career. As we celebrate her well-deserved recognition, let’s continue to follow her lead of breaking barriers and empowering the next generation of legal leaders.”

Deneen Donnley will be honored at MCCA’s Gala at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on October 15, 2024.

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The Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) is the preeminent voice on diversity, equity, and inclusion from the counsel’s office to the C-suite and across corporate America. For over 27 years, MCCA has championed diversity in the legal profession and beyond by publishing research, providing professional development opportunities, convening thought leaders, and offering advisory services. Today, MCCA empowers members with the tools needed to know, do, and lead better – and to transform their company, industry, and corporate America for the better.