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Press Release

Kiplund R. (Kip) Kolkmeier has been selected to receive the 2016 Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award for his long-standing and significant legislative and legal work to benefit libraries in Illinois.

“The Illinois Library Association’s Public Policy Committee and Awards Committee are most honored to present this year’s Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award to Kiplund R. (Kip) Kolkmeier”, said David J. Seleb, ILA’s Public Policy Committee Chairperson and Executive Director of the Oak Park Public Library. “Kip has advocated in Springfield for many not-for-profit associations, but he is most proud of and we are most grateful for his twenty years serving as the Illinois Library Association’s legislative consultant. As the lawyer and lobbyist for Illinois libraries and library professionals at the State Capitol, Kip has worked to protect public, school, academic, and special libraries and has fought for intellectual freedom. Our Association looks forward to presenting the award to Kip at its annual conference scheduled for October 2016 in Rosemont, Illinois,” Seleb added.

In his time with the library community, Kip has always been forthright and careful in protecting and advocating for Illinois libraries. He has watched the legislative process, alerted us to relevant bills, helped in developing strategy for supporting or opposing bills, drafted and sought sponsorship for legislative initiatives, and communicated to both public officials and group members. Kip has also provided one-on-one advice to individual libraries on how to proceed in acquiring legislative support.

Mr. Kolkmeier is an attorney and is currently Of Counsel to the law firm of Perkins Coie LLP. His legal practice focuses on governmental ethics issues including lobbyist registration and disclosure, gifts and gratuities to public officials, conflicts of interest, and campaign finance and procurement issues. Earlier in his career, Mr. Kolkmeier was a partner at the law firm Sidley & Austin. He was in charge of the firm’s Illinois Capitol office and focused on State legislative and regulatory issues.

Mr. Kolkmeier served for 3 years as a member of the City of Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission, and for 6 years as a member of the City of Springfield Historic Sites Commission. He currently dedicates significant time as a volunteer mediator assisting pro se civil litigants in resolving their disputes before trial. Mr. Kolkmeier is a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago School of Law and Stanford University.

The Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award will be presented at the ILA Awards Luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, October 18 at 12:00pm at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.