



Consumer Champion Awardee Bios



Nancy Cowles is the Executive Director of [Kids In Danger](#) (KID), a nonprofit dedicated to protecting children by fighting for product safety. KID's mission is to save lives by enhancing transparency and accountability through safer product development, better education and stronger advocacy for children. Nancy has over 30 years experience conceiving, building and directing organizations to investigate a wide variety of consumer issues and to craft solutions. Prior to coming to KID, Nancy served as executive director of the Coalition for Consumer Rights, a center for public interest research and education. She is a past president of the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO) as well as a participant in ASTM International standard setting on juvenile products, toys, laundry packets, and furniture. She received her BA from Wheaton College. She has three children and lives in Oak Park, Illinois.



Andreanecia Morris serves as the Executive Director for [HousingNOLA](#), a 10-year partnership between the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance, the Foundation for Louisiana, the City's Office of Housing and Community Development, and dozens of public, private, and nonprofit organizations working to solve New Orleans' affordable housing crisis. Prior to her role as Executive Director, Morris spearheaded the HousingNOLA 10-year Strategy and Implementation Plan, released in 2015. The strategy indicated the need for 33,600 additional affordable units in the city by 2025. Further, the data showed that wages had not come close to mirroring the dramatic rise in housing costs. Morris has worked to create affordable housing opportunities in the Greater New Orleans Area in both the public and private sector. Morris assisted in creating opportunities for approximately 500 families to become first time homebuyers after Hurricane Katrina, and she was lead organizer for the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance when it started in 2007 as collaborative coalition of non-profit housing builders and community development corporations working to rebuild the City of New Orleans. Morris has established connections with community members, governmental officials and media to successfully promote the agenda for low to mixed-

income housing in the Greater New Orleans region, and many people consider her a key player in rebuilding the city of New Orleans. Morris serves as President/Chairwoman for the GNOHA Board of Governors, which supports and advises the efforts to preserve and production of affordable housing for people within the Greater New Orleans Region and places a special emphasis on the needs of the most vulnerable in society—seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, low-wage workers and low-income families. Morris also co-chairs the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative, and she is a member of the Housing Authority of New Orleans' Board of Commissioners, City of New Orleans Interagency Council on Homelessness, Lafitte Greenway Steering Advisory Committee, Louisiana Alliance for Economic Inclusion, CONNECT Coalition Steering Committee, JP Morgan Chase Louisiana Community Advisory Board, lowernine.org Board of Directors, ASI Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, Friends of Lafitte Greenway Board of Directors, Project Homecoming Board of Directors American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Crescent City Connections Express Network and the American Heart Association Multicultural Leadership Committee. She was recognized by the FDIC in 2011 for her leadership and service in supporting the mission of Southeast Louisiana Alliance for Economic Inclusion (AEI) Initiative. In 2014, she was named to 2014 CityBusiness Woman of the Year Class. She received the NeighborWorks® Community Building & Engagement Staff Award for her work at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center and the NEWCITY Neighborhood Partnership in 2015. Morris was also selected in 2015 to represent New Orleans in the East West Center US-Japan Grassroots Exchange focusing on Citizen Participation in Community Building Post-Disaster. In April 2016, UNITY of Greater New Orleans named Morris Outstanding Advocate for Affordable Housing.



Willard Ogburn is a Senior Fellow at NCLC, previously serving as Executive Director. [The National Consumer Law Center](#) is a low income advocacy organization, publisher of the major treatises on consumer law, a support center for legal aid programs, and sponsor of the annual National Consumer Rights Litigation Conference. The Center is sometimes called 'the nation's consumer law experts.' Mr. Ogburn has presented and written widely on consumer law. He has served as Deputy Commissioner of Banks in Massachusetts; in the Executive Office of the President; with Congress' Legislative Reference Service; in the Law Reform Unit of Cleveland Legal Aid; as a member and Chair of the Federal Reserve Board Consumer Advisory Council; on Senator Elizabeth Warren's Judicial Screening Committee; on the transition team for Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey; as an Access to Justice Fellow (Massachusetts) and on

the Board of Directors of Americans for Fairness in Lending; the Consumer Federation of America (President); the National Association of Consumer Advocates (Executive Committee); the Center for Legal Aid Education (President); the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute; and Consumer Reports. He was awarded the National Association of Consumer Advocates' Lifetime Achievement Award; the William J. Proxmire Lifetime Achievement Award by the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers; and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Massachusetts Bar Association.



Keith Ellison was sworn in as

Minnesota's 30th attorney general on January 7, 2019. As the People's Lawyer, Attorney General Ellison's job is to help Minnesotans afford their lives and live with dignity, safety, and respect. His guiding values are generosity and inclusion. From 2007 to 2019, Keith Ellison represented Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he championed consumer, worker, environmental, and civil- and human-rights protections for Minnesotans. He served for 12 years on the House Financial Services Committee, where he helped oversee the financial services industry, the housing industry, and Wall Street, among others. Among his legislative accomplishments are passing provisions to protect credit-card holders from abusive practices and protect the rights of renters and tenants. While in Congress, he founded the Congressional Antitrust Caucus and the Congressional Consumer Justice Caucus. He also served as co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which he helped build to more than 100 members. Before being elected to Congress, Attorney General Ellison served four years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Prior to entering elective office, he spent 16 years as an attorney specializing in civil-rights and defense law, including five years as executive director of the Legal Rights Center. As the leader of this public-interest law firm, he oversaw a team of attorneys focused on delivering justice for Minnesotans who had nowhere else to turn. He was also a noted community activist. Attorney General Ellison received his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1990. He is the proud father of four adult children: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, and Amirah. He is the first African American and the first Muslim American to be elected to statewide office in Minnesota.



Maura Healey was sworn in as

Attorney General on January 21, 2015, pledging to lead the People's Law Firm. Since taking office, Healey has tackled issues touching the lives of residents across Massachusetts including

the heroin and prescription drug abuse epidemic, escalating health care costs, workers' rights and student loan costs. She has focused on strengthening consumer protections and on improving our criminal justice system. Building on her promise to run an office that serves people across the state, Healey launched the Community Engagement Division in May 2015. The first-of-its-kind division brings the Attorney General's Office and its work into neighborhoods and communities across the state. The Division has launched community office hours and has assisted with the rollout of several policy initiatives including the Earned Sick Time law and Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. Healey is an advocate for a more equal and inclusive workplace. In May 2015, she announced that her office would provide six weeks of paid family leave for all employees - making the AG's Office the first state agency to offer paid parental leave. The office has also helped shaped state legislation that would expand opportunities for women in the workplace including Pay Equity and Pregnant Workers Fairness bills. As a civil rights attorney, Healey is committed to ensuring that all residents are treated fairly. As former head of the office's Civil Rights Division, Healey was the architect of the state's successful challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act and argued the case in federal court. As Attorney General, she has advocated for marriage equality and in support of bills to fight discrimination against transgender people. Prior to her election, Healey helped lead the Attorney General's Office as head of the Civil Rights Division and as Chief of the Public Protection and Business & Labor Bureaus. In those roles, she helped defend the Massachusetts buffer zone law, which protected women from being harassed at reproductive health care centers. She also shut down predatory lenders that were wreaking havoc on Massachusetts communities and oversaw a team that has worked with homeowners to help make their loans affordable. The program has gotten banks to modify thousands of home mortgages and stop hundreds of foreclosures. Healey grew up the oldest of five brothers and sisters in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. Her mother worked as a school nurse, her father was a captain in the military and a civil engineer, and her stepfather taught history and coached high school sports. Her family roots are in Newburyport and along the North Shore, where her grandfathers worked at the post office and in the General Electric factory. From her family, she learned values of hard work, discipline, and the importance of taking care of others. Healey graduated from Harvard College in 1992 and was captain of the women's basketball team. She played professional basketball in Europe before returning to Massachusetts to attend Northeastern University School of Law. She was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006. Early in her career, Healey clerked for Judge David Mazzone in the United States District Court in Massachusetts. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Healey was a junior partner at the international law firm Wilmer Hale (formerly Hale and Dorr), where she represented clients in the financial services, pharmaceutical, medical device, software, energy, biotechnology and professional sports sectors. She is a former Special Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County, where she tried drug, assault, domestic violence and motor vehicle cases.