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MAJOR COUNTY SHERIFFS OF AMERICA AWARDS HONOREES DURING POLICY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON D.C.

January 28, 2025 (Washington D.C.) – Today, the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) honored individuals dedicated to public safety and law enforcement during its annual policy conference in Washington, D.C. Awards were announced and presented for the 2024 Legislator of the Year, 2024 President's Award, and 2024 Sandra S. Hutchens Sheriff of the Year Award.

2024 Legislator of the Year Award

For their relentless and steadfast support of MCSA legislative priorities as well as support for the nation's law enforcement across the country, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Representative Lisa McClain (R-MI) were announced as the recipients of the 2024 Legislator of the Year Award. Due to the House of Representatives members being back in the district this week, both honorees will be presented with their awards at a later date.

"We are grateful for the continued work that Majority Leader Scalise and Representative McClain have completed on many of our priorities during the last Congress and we look forward to partnering with them in the future to modernize and advance policing," said MCSA President Sheriff Bill Brown.

2024 President's Award

The President of MCSA has the privilege of awarding a select individual of their choosing to receive the annual President's Award which is given to someone who has been a relentless supporter and advocate for MCSA and its membership. The 2024 President's Award was given to outgoing COPS Director Hugh T. Clements, Jr. for his leadership for the last two years and assisting MCSA with numerous initiatives including projects related to the deployment of specialized units, recruitment and retention, de-escalation training, response to school shootings, and innovating the grant process to make funding more accessible to agencies of all sizes.

"Director Clements embodied the qualities necessary to lead the nation's law enforcement," said President Brown. "His passion for improving policing across the country and ensuring our agencies were equipped with the proper training and tools necessary to protect the community was unwavering. The impact he has left on the COPS Office and on our profession is tremendous and we graciously thank him for his service."

"I'm grateful and humbled with this recognition and it is a great honor for me," said former COPS Director Hugh T. Clements. "I've been proud of the collaboration with the Major County Sheriffs of America in their efforts to fight violent crime, gangs, and the scourge of drugs in the communities they protect. The Association cares passionately about the complicated work in the field and that is why this President's Award, from such a dedicated group of professionals, means so much to me."

2024 Sandra S. Hutchens Sheriff of the Year

The Sandra S. Hutchens Sheriff of the Year award is named for former MCSA President and Orange County (CA) Sheriff Sandra Hutchens whose leadership lives on today through the presentation of this honor for a member sheriff who is nominated and selected by their fellow colleagues. The 2024 Sandra S. Hutchens Sheriff of the Year award was presented to Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard of Oakland County, Michigan who has served in MCSA leadership for a continuous 25 years.

“Sheriff Bouchard is one of the original pillars of MCSA who has seen this organization from its infancy to the professional association it is today,” said MCSA Executive Director Megan Noland. “His tenure as MCSA President and as the long-standing Vice President of Government Affairs continues to leave an impact on policing across the country. He has helped to craft numerous legislative policies that have had a direct effect on first responders and it is clear his leadership and character make him the ideal recipient of this great honor.”

“The Major County Sheriffs of America represent the largest Sheriff’s Offices in the country being led by the most proactive future-drive law enforcement leaders in the world,” said Sheriff Michael Bouchard. “To be named by them as their national Sheriff of the Year is a huge honor. I am very appreciative and humbled.”

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The Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) is a professional law enforcement association representation the nation’s largest Sheriff’s Offices of a population greater than 400,000.