



IPLAC Annual Meeting

May 14, 2026

The University Club of Chicago



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MENU

Grilled Diver Sea Scallop, Leek Confit, Corn Bisque, Citrus Marigold

**Cabernet Braised Beef Short Rib, Truffled Mac n' Cheese, Wilted Spinach, and
Root Vegetable Jardinière**

Or

**Quinoa Bowl
Sweet Potatoes, Brussels Sprouts, Shiitake, Lemon Vinaigrette**

Milk Chocolate Cheesecake with Cocoa Sponge Base and Crème Fraiche Mousse

Sauvignon Blanc (California) and Pinot Noir (Oregon)



IPLAC ANNUAL MEETING

May 14, 2026

Matthew J. Kelly, Presiding

AGENDA

President's Report

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

2026 Creator of the Year Award

Committee of the Year Award, Volunteer of the Year Award, and Distinguished Member Service Award

Election of New Officers and Board of Managers

Awards to Outgoing Officers and Board Members

New President's Comments

Adjournment



THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

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FITCH EVEN TABIN & FLANNERY LLP

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*Greg Mayer to serve a 1-year term to complete Izabella Higson's term.

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**THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

2026 CREATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

TO ALEX KOTLOWITZ

IPLAC Creator of the Year Award is given to honor the creative achievements, primarily in the Chicago metropolitan area, that are eligible for patent, copyright, or trademark protection. This year, IPLAC is proud to recognize **Alex Kotlowitz** as the winner of the 2026 IPLAC Creator of the Year Award, for his achievements in the area of copyright, industry recognition, and strong community engagement.

Alex Kotlowitz is an author and journalist who, for forty years, has been telling stories from the heart of America — deeply intimate tales of struggle and perseverance. He received his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University, and a reporting position at The Wall Street Journal sent him to Chicago, where he has made his home ever since.

Alex Kotlowitz's Creative Contributions Under Copyright

Kotlowitz is the author of four books, including the national bestseller *There Are No Children Here* — selected by the New York Public Library as one of the 150 most important books of the twentieth century and adapted into a television movie produced by and starring Oprah Winfrey — and his most recent, *An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago*, which received the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize. His documentary, *The Interrupters*, co-produced with Steve James, premiered at Sundance and aired as a two-hour special on PBS's *FRONTLINE*, earning him an Emmy, a Cinema Eye Award, and an Independent Spirit Award. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and on *This American Life*, and his podcast *Written Inside* was named one of the top ten podcasts of the year by NPR. He has 11 registered copyright entries under Kotlowitz's name in the U.S. Copyright Catalog spanning his major published works.

Alex Kotlowitz's Impact on the Chicago Community

An American Summer examines the psychological toll gun violence takes on individuals and communities, bearing witness to the more than 14,000 people killed and 60,000 wounded by gunfire in Chicago over the past two decades. In September 2024, Kotlowitz became the 17th recipient of the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame's Fuller Award. His many honors include two Peabodys, two Columbia duPont Awards, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, the George Polk Award, the Harold Washington Literary Award, and eight honorary degrees. He has been a professor at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism since 1999.

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Invitation to Donate Funds for Future Scholarships

Please donate to the IPLAC Educational Foundation to support future scholarship awards. Please use the QR code below or mail checks to P.O. Box 472, Chicago, IL 60690, c/o Paul Juettner.



The IPLAC Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to it are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you for your support of the IPLAC Educational Foundation.