

YOU'RE INVITED

# SEEDS OF JUSTICE

JUNE 21 @ 6:00 PM

River Roast, 315 N LaSalle St, Chicago

Join Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts and the Chicago Council of Lawyers on June 21 at our Seeds of Justice event, where we will honor **Sharone Mitchell, Jr.**, Public Defender of Cook County.



SEEDS OF JUSTICE AWARD WINNER:

## SHARONE MITCHELL, JR.

Cook County Public Defender

Sharone Mitchell, Jr. is a passionate advocate for the rights of everyone represented by the Public Defender—one of the largest unified public defense offices in the nation, with nearly 700 employees, a budget of approximately \$80 million, and 23 divisions and units. Before being nominated by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and sworn into office on April 1, 2021, Mr. Mitchell was the Director of the Illinois Justice Project (ILJP), where he worked to reduce inappropriate incarceration, improve community safety outcomes, and helped lead the Coalition to End Money Bond's successful effort to outlaw wealth-based pretrial incarceration in Illinois. He is a lifelong resident of Chicago, graduating from Morgan Park High School, attending the University of Illinois, and then earning a law degree from DePaul University College of Law. Mr. Mitchell is on the board of Chicago Debates, St. Leonard's Ministries, Live Free Chicago, and previously served on the Board of Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts.



FEATURED KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

## JOE FERGUSON

Former Inspector General for Chicago

Joe Ferguson recently concluded a 12-year tenure as the Inspector General for the City of Chicago. Under his stewardship, the OIG garnered national prominence for its government audits and inspections; creation of a public, user-friendly data visualization platform; and administrative and criminal investigations, including around CPD's actions after the police murder of teenager Laquan McDonald. Prior to being the Inspector General, Mr. Ferguson spent 15 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois; was an associate at Sidley Austin; and taught at several law schools, colleges, and in various roles for the U.S. Justice Department. Joe Ferguson is the co-founder and co-director of Loyola University Chicago Law School's National Security and Civil Rights program and a 2022 Pritzker Fellow at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics. He is a native of Boston and received his BA (and honorary Doctor of Laws) from Lake Forest College and JD from Northwestern University.

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