



For Immediate Release
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AIA Potomac Valley Honors Edward P. Day and James F. Lee Jr., Esq. with 2025 Paul H. Kea Medals for Leadership and Service

Bethesda, MD, October 28, 2025 – The American Institute of Architects Potomac Valley (AIAPV) is proud to announce that **Edward P. Day** and **James F. Lee Jr., Esq.** have been named the 2025 recipients of the **Paul H. Kea Medal**, recognizing their outstanding leadership and service in advancing the architectural profession and the public’s appreciation of design. The awards were presented at Celebrate Design 2025, AIAPV’s annual Design + Leadership Awards Celebration held in partnership with the Montgomery County Planning Department on Thursday, October 16, at Marriott International’s Global Headquarters.

The Paul H. Kea Medal honors professionals, volunteers, and colleagues whose efforts have significantly increased public awareness of the role of architecture in our lives. The medal recognizes exemplary contributions to the profession in the areas of Service to the Profession, Leadership, or Architectural Advocacy that further the public’s appreciation of design excellence.

Edward P. Day - Leadership

Mr. Day is recognized for more than 30 years of visionary leadership advancing historic preservation in Prince George’s County, demonstrating exemplary stewardship, advocacy, and collaboration in service to architectural integrity, public heritage, and design excellence.

A leading preservationist in Prince George’s County, Maryland, Edward P. Day has devoted more than three decades to preserving and promoting the region’s historic and architectural legacy. Beginning his career in 1994 as Director of the Riversdale House Museum, Day advanced to become Chief Historic Preservation Officer for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 2018.

Under his leadership, the County’s preservation program has flourished—overseeing more than 180 historic resources and securing \$25 million in funding for preservation initiatives. Day led the \$1.25 million restoration of the Peace Cross in Bladensburg and the award-winning restoration of Compton Bassett Chapel, projects that reflect his deep commitment to public heritage and architectural integrity. His stewardship and advocacy continue to shape the preservation landscape across the region.

James F. Lee Jr., Esq. - Service to the Profession

Mr. Lee is recognized for over four decades of dedicated service to the architectural profession, providing trusted counsel, education, and advocacy to hundreds of design firms, and for advancing architects’ understanding of legal, ethical, and professional practice through his exemplary commitment to the profession’s growth and integrity.

For more than 40 years, James F. Lee Jr., Esq. has been a trusted legal advisor and advocate for the architectural community. Before his retirement in January 2024, Lee represented over 700 design firms

throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and beyond—providing expert counsel on business and professional liability matters for projects ranging from small residential designs to major institutional and mixed-use developments.

A long-time affiliate member of AIA Potomac Valley, Lee contributed extensively to architects' professional education. He authored articles, led seminars, and for over three decades delivered the highly regarded Annual Case Review of Legal Decisions Affecting Architects and Engineers—a pro bono program offering thousands of Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) hours to design professionals. His lifelong commitment to advancing architects' understanding of legal and ethical practice embodies the very spirit of the Kea Medal.

About the Paul H. Kea Medal

Named in honor of architect Paul H. Kea, FAIA, this distinguished award recognizes individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the architectural profession and to public awareness of architecture's impact on everyday life. The medal celebrates achievements in service, leadership, and advocacy that elevate the practice and appreciation of design in the Potomac Valley region and beyond.

AIA Potomac Valley's 2025 Design + Leadership Awards were supported by sponsors Lee/Shoemaker, Grimm + Parker Architects, Macris, Hendricks and Glasscock, PA (MHG), and R.C. Fields and Associates.

Additional details can be found here: https://aiapv.org/Kea_Medal

AIA Potomac Valley provides leadership, communication, education, and advocacy in support of architects and their constituencies in the Potomac Valley region. We empower members to advance their roles in service to society; act as a collective voice to help cultivate the future of the architectural profession; foster innovation and sustainability in design; and are a knowledge resource to members and the public, raising awareness of the value of the architecture profession. The chapter serves roughly 700 members in Allegany, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, Prince George's and Washington counties in Maryland. For more information about AIA Potomac Valley, please visit <https://aiapv.org>

Founded in 1857, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) consistently works to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings, neighborhoods, and communities. Through more than 200 international, state and local chapters, AIA advocates for public policies that promote economic vitality and public wellbeing. For more information about AIA, please visit <https://www.aia.org>

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