



# LANDMARKS ILLINOIS

## 2016 Legendary Landmark The Neal Family

For three generations, The Neal Family has collectively championed Chicago as a world class city and left their mark on its physical and cultural landscape. The law firm of Neal & Leroy, originally established in 1938 by Earl J. Neal, was joined in 1955 by his son Earl L. Neal. One of the oldest minority owned and operated firms in the United States, Neal & Leroy has advised and represented clients in the designation, development and protection of historic landmarks and landmark districts including the Reliance Building, the Chicago Theater, properties in the Motor Row District, and the recent relocation of the landmark Rees House to name a few. In addition to a distinguished municipal and real estate law career, the late Earl L. Neal served on numerous corporate and civic boards including as Trustee of the University of Michigan Law School and the University of Illinois. Earl shared his life with Isobel Hoskins Neal for 49 years.

Isobel Neal is a patron of the arts who has long cultivated Chicago's robust cultural community. With professional roots in public elementary education, including work with children with physical disabilities, she later founded and operated the Isobel Neal Gallery, which promoted and represented the work of African American artists. Today, she is a fine arts consultant to corporate and private clients and remains steadfast in her civic leadership. Mrs. Neal currently serves as a Life Trustee on the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago where she also is a member of the Leadership Advisory Committee and the Museum Education Committee; Chicago Sister Cities International Casablanca Committee; and the University of Chicago Women's Board.

The Neal family's impact on Chicago continues through Earl and Isobel Neal's son, Langdon Neal, Managing Partner and owner of Neal & Leroy, along with his wife Jeanette Sublett, also a Managing Partner at the firm. Mr. Neal, who joined the firm in 1981, has advised and represented municipalities, public agencies, and other public trusts in the areas of real estate transactions, zoning, land use and development, and public/private transactions. Similarly, Ms. Sublett has acquired property to create public parks surrounding historic structures including the campus park adjacent to Wendell Phillips Academy High School, designated a Chicago Landmark in 2003, and preserving historic buildings in connection with the City of Chicago's 47th Street Redevelopment Project. Furthermore, Mr. Neal has served as Chairman of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners since 1996, and Ms. Sublett serves as a Commissioner on the Illinois Supreme Court Character and Fitness Committee. Both she and Mr. Neal serve as Adjunct Professors of Law for the University of Illinois College of Law.