



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

NEWS RELEASE

Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSUMER COUNSEL ELIN SWANSON KATZ NAMED STATE BROADBAND CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (Oct. 18, 2016) – Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz, who has led an effort to educate municipalities and consumers on the potential benefits of ultra-high-speed gigabit internet access, today received the 2016 “Local Internet Choice State Champion Award,” a national honor awarded by the Coalition for Local Internet Choice (CLIC). CLIC stated the award recognizes Katz’s “singular and exemplary leadership at the state level on behalf of the state of Connecticut’s consumers, businesses, and localities, to accelerate the emergence of advanced communications networks for community and economic development throughout Connecticut.”

Other CLIC award recipients today also include U.S. Senator Corey Booker (D-NJ), U.S. Senator Edward Markey (D-MA), and U.S. Representative Anna Eschoo (D-CA), who each received CLIC’s Local Internet Choice Federal Policy Leadership Award; Derek Slater, Senior Policy Manager, GOOGLE Fiber, who received the Local Internet Choice Private Sector Champion Award; and Gigi Sohn, Counselor to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler, who was named 2016 National Champion for Local Internet Choice. A full list of recipient can be found [here](#).

“This award is a testament to the culture of high-tech innovation and collaboration in Connecticut,” Consumer Counsel Katz said when accepting the award. “I share this honor with the many thoughtful state, local, and industry leaders, especially the mayors and first selectmen and women, who are determined to make our state a leader in the digital economy and foremost in the industries enabled by gigabit-fast internet, including bioscience, health care, precision manufacturing, and high-tech research and development. We’re seeing a proliferation of affordable gigabit-capable networks in our state, and expect to see continued growth. Connecticut is a state on the move.”

Governor Dannel P. Malloy said, “Connecticut is proud to have an advocate like Elin Swanson Katz give a voice to all of our utility consumers, and advance the dialogue and raise awareness for improved broadband access across the state. The results that her efforts are producing will go a long way in our state's efforts to spur business growth, economic development, and a greater quality of life for our residents. I want to thank her for her work, in addition to the coalition of advocates who continue to promote this important issue.”

New Haven Mayor Toni Harp, one of the municipal leaders who has worked closely with Consumer Counsel Katz on the effort to enhance the state’s high-speed broadband networks, said, “I am pleased that Connecticut, and Consumer Counsel Katz, are being recognized for leadership in facilitating the increased development of ultra-high-speed broadband. In just the last six months, we’ve seen an enormous growth in the widespread availability of affordable gigabit networks, and I believe the efforts of the municipal coalition I help lead will continue to push the development of fast, affordable internet for all of our citizens.”

West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor, also a leading proponent for Connecticut’s leadership in the digital economy, said, “Positioning my town and our state at the leading edge of the digital revolution, and ensuring that our citizens have affordable access to the ever-increasing bandwidth demanded by the growing high-tech sectors in our state is a top priority of mine. It’s a must-have, not a nice-to-have, and I thank Consumer Counsel Katz for helping to educate so many municipal leaders on the importance of this issue.”

CLIC’s Board of Advisors includes many technology luminaries, such as Vint Cerf, considered one of the “fathers” of the internet; Susan Crawford, Co-Director, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University; and Blair Levin, architect of President Obama’s National Broadband Plan; as well as representatives from leading technology companies such as Google, Craig’s List, and Netflix. A complete list of CLIC’s Board can be found [here](#).

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The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut’s advocate for consumers on issues relating to electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/occ.