

Transforming Lives and Community Luncheon

Honoring Lewis H. Butler and Louise Renne

May 10, 2016

Julia Morgan Ballroom, The Merchants Exchange Building



Born and raised in San Francisco, **Lewis H. Butler** has dedicated his life to improving the communities around him, with a strong emphasis on healthcare and environmental protection. A WWII veteran, Lew graduated from Princeton University – with help of the GI Bill – and later received his JD from Stanford Law School. In the early 60's, Lew and his family moved to Malaysia where he helped establish and lead the country's Peace Corps program. Upon returning to the U.S., Lew served as an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW) in Washington D.C., and participated in the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as the preparation of Nixon's national health insurance plan. In 1971, the Butlers returned to San Francisco and Lew co-founded the UCSF Institute of Health Policy Studies, where he served as director until 1985.

He is an active philanthropist: Lew was the long-term chairman of the board of the non-profit organization California Tomorrow, a co-founder and board chair of the Ploughshares Fund, and a board member of the Rosenberg Foundation, the John Hay Whitney Foundation and the Joyce Foundation. In 2002, the Butler Koshland Fellowship was created at the San Francisco Foundation in Lew and his mentor Dan Koshland's honor; it has since focused on the development of future civic leaders in the Bay Area, as well as across the country. He is also the recipient of several awards, including the Natural Resources Defense Council Award for nuclear arms control (1983), and the Cesar E. Chavez Environmental Justice Award (1995).

Louise Renne leads the public interest litigation and elder financial abuse practice at Renne Sloane Holtzman Sakai LLP (Public Law Group), where she is also a founding partner. A former four-term San Francisco City Attorney and the first woman to hold the position, Louise pioneered a program of affirmative litigation while working for the city and used it to win several cases for both consumers and taxpayers in California.

In 1996, as city attorney, Louise filed a class-action lawsuit against the tobacco companies for endangering public health and won a multi-billion dollar settlement, \$500M of which was earmarked for San Francisco. Louise then supported a bill directing that the funds be used to revitalize the Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center; it passed and the hospital was saved. Her previous experience includes serving as a



member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for eight years, holding the position of California state deputy attorney general for 11 years, and working as a staff attorney at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for three years. In addition to her professional pursuits, Louise is a strong supporter of community organizations, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums, as well as the Allies United for Children, for which she is Board Chair.