

**BRENNAN**  
**LEGACY**  
**AWARDS**  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

# Welcome

Thank you for being part of the 2021 Brennan Legacy Awards—our annual gathering to pay tribute to the memory of our namesake, Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., celebrate the work of the institution that bears his name, and honor those who exemplify his values and vision.

This year marks the Brennan Center's 25th anniversary in the fight for democracy and justice. It is, without question, a moment of great challenge and uncertainty for our country. We at the Brennan Center are committed to playing our part in the great struggle for the future of American democracy. We are grateful to have you by our side in those efforts.

We are delighted to be recognizing four remarkable honorees with the Brennan Legacy Award this evening: **Kenneth I. Chenault** and **Kenneth C. Frazier**, for their work to mobilize the business community against voter suppression; **Darren Walker**, president of the Ford Foundation, for his leadership in ensuring groups like the Brennan Center have the resources to fight vigorously for justice; and **More Than a Vote**, the dynamic coalition of athletes and artists working to educate, empower, and protect Black voters.

As always, we extend our deepest gratitude to our event sponsors, all our supporters, pro bono partners, Board members, and staff. The enduring commitment of this community strengthens our work in so many ways.

Thank you again for joining us—and enjoy the show!

Sincerely,



Michael Waldman  
President

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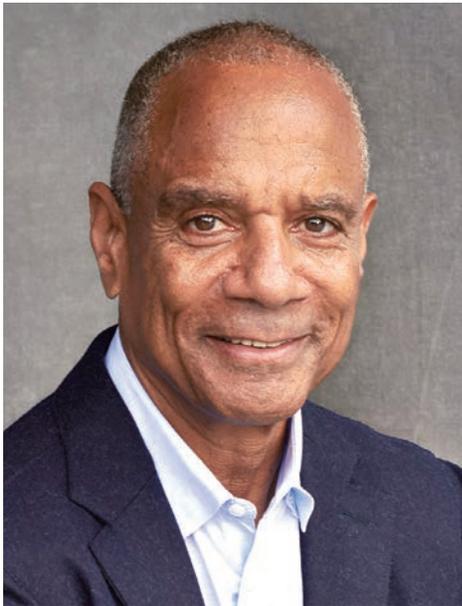
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# Brennan Legacy Award Recipient

## Kenneth I. Chenault



Ken Chenault is the Chairman and a Managing Director of the venture capital firm, General Catalyst. Prior to joining General Catalyst, Ken was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American Express, a position he held from 2001–2018. Ken is recognized as one of the business world’s experts on brands and brand management. Upon Ken’s retirement from American Express, Warren Buffett, the company’s largest shareholder stated, “Ken’s been the gold standard for corporate leadership and the benchmark that I measure others against.”

Ken has been honored by multiple publications including *Fortune*, which named him as one of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders in its inaugural list in 2014 and, most recently, in 2021. *TIME* celebrated Ken together with Ken Frazier in the TIME100 Most Influential People of 2021 list for their corporate and social activism; specifically, for mobilizing hundreds of corporate leaders to advocate for equitable voting rights in the U.S., and for co-founding OneTen, a coalition of leading executives coming together to upskill, hire and advance one million Black Americans over the next 10 years into family-sustaining jobs with opportunities for advancement.

Ken serves on the boards of Airbnb, Berkshire Hathaway, Chief, Guild Education, and the Harvard Corporation. He also serves on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution’s Advisory Council for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

# Brennan Legacy Award Recipient

## Kenneth C. Frazier



Kenneth C. Frazier is Executive Chairman of Merck's board of directors since July 2021, following his retirement from a decade-long tenure as Merck's President and CEO.

Under Ken's leadership, Merck delivered innovative life-saving medicines and vaccines, and long-term sustainable value to its multiple stakeholders. Ken substantially increased Merck's investment in research, while refocusing the organization on the launch and growth of key products that provide far-reaching benefits to society. He also led the formation of philanthropic initiatives that build on Merck's 130-year legacy

Prior to joining Merck in 1992, Ken was a Partner with the Philadelphia law firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath. His contributions, especially in the legal, healthcare, and humanitarian fields, have been widely recognized. Ken is also Chairman, Health Assurance Initiatives, at the venture capital firm, General Catalyst, where he advises on investments and partnerships and provides mentorship to founders building companies that are well positioned to transform the healthcare industry through collaborative and responsible innovation. Ken serves on the boards of numerous organizations, and holds several chairmanships, including his role as Co-Founder and Co-Chair of OneTen, a coalition of leading organizations committed to upskilling, hiring, and promoting one million Black Americans into family-sustaining jobs.

Ken received his bachelor's degree from The Pennsylvania State University and holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

# Brennan Legacy Award Recipient

## More Than a Vote

The logo for 'More Than a Vote' is rendered in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The words are stacked vertically: 'MORE' on the top line, 'THANA' on the middle line, and 'VOTE' on the bottom line. The letters are slightly slanted to the right, giving the logo a sense of movement and dynamism.

**More Than a Vote** (MTAV) is a coalition of Black athletes and artists who came together amid the protests fueled by the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. MTAV focuses on systemic, targeted voter suppression and has a specific mission: educate, energize, and protect Black voters. The coalition is driven by a shared understanding that the influence and prominence of its members, particularly among young people, incurs a responsibility to continue the tradition to work together as a community to fight for justice and equality.

The Legacy Award will be accepted by MTAV Chief Executive Officer **Addisu Demissie** and coalition member **Renee Montgomery**, WNBA All-Star and Vice President and Co-Owner of the Atlanta Dream.

# Brennan Legacy Award Recipient

## Darren Walker



Darren Walker is President of the Ford Foundation, a \$16 billion international social justice philanthropy. Under his leadership, the Ford Foundation became the first non-profit in US history to issue a \$1 billion designated social bond to stabilize non-profit organizations in the wake of COVID-19. Before joining Ford, Darren was vice president at Rockefeller Foundation. Previously, he was COO of Harlem's Abyssinian Development Corporation. Darren co-founded both the US Impact Investing Alliance and the Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy. He serves on many boards, including the National Gallery of Art, Carnegie Hall, the High Line, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, and Committee to Protect Journalists.

## Featured Speaker

# Kimberley D. Harris



Kimberley D. Harris is Executive Vice President of Comcast Corporation and General Counsel of NBCUniversal. In this role, Harris oversees all international government and regulatory affairs for Comcast, supporting the company's businesses worldwide. Additionally, as General Counsel of NBCUniversal, Harris provides legal advice to the senior management team and oversees the legal function across all NBCUniversal divisions.

Harris joined NBCUniversal in 2013 from Davis Polk & Wardwell, where she was a partner in the litigation department. From 2010 to 2012, Harris served in the White House Counsel's Office, and became the principal Deputy Counsel and Deputy Assistant to the President in 2011. From 2009 to 2010, she was Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division.

She serves as a member of the Brennan Center's Board of Directors and is also on the Boards of Advocates for Children of New York and the Mount Sinai Health System. Harris is also the recipient of the Brennan Center's 2015 Legacy Award.

Harris graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University and holds a law degree from Yale Law School.

## Featured Speaker

# Christine A. Varney



Christine A. Varney is the Chair of Cravath, Swaine & Moore's Antitrust practice. She has been widely recognized as one of the leading antitrust lawyers in the United States in both private practice and in government service, and she is the only person to have served as both the U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust and as a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

From 2009 until 2011, Varney served as Assistant Attorney General and headed the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. In that role she oversaw all aspects of the Division's operations, including merger review, criminal and civil litigation and investigations and coordination with competition regulators outside the United States.

From 1994 through 1997, Varney served as a Commissioner of the FTC. While at the FTC, she played a leading role on a broad range of competition law issues, and she is widely credited with pioneering the application of innovation market theory analysis to information technology and biotechnology transactions. Prior to becoming FTC Commissioner, Varney served as Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Cabinet in the Clinton Administration.

Varney serves as a member of the Brennan Center's Board of Directors. She is also a Board member of the American Museum of Natural History and Third Way, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a member of the International Bar Association, the Council on Foreign Relations, The American Law Institute, and The Economic Club of New York.

Varney received a B.A. from the State University of New York at Albany, an M.P.A. from Syracuse University, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

## Featured Speaker

# Michael Waldman



Michael Waldman is President of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. He is a leading voice on the issues of American democracy, the presidency, and the law. He joined the Brennan Center in 2005 after a distinguished career in public service and advocacy.

Waldman was Director of Speechwriting for President William J. Clinton from 1995 to 1999, serving as Assistant to the President. He wrote or edited nearly 2,000 speeches, including four State of the Union and two Inaugural Addresses. Previously, he was Special Assistant to the President for Policy Coordination from 1993 to 1995.

He is the author of *The Fight to Vote*, a history of the struggle to win voting rights for all citizens. The *Washington Post* wrote, “Waldman’s important and engaging account demonstrates that over the long term, the power of the democratic ideal prevails—as long as the people so demand.” He is also the author of *The Second Amendment: A Biography*, which *Publishers Weekly* called “the best narrative of its subject.” Waldman’s previous books include *My Fellow Americans* and *POTUS Speaks*.

Waldman has served as the director of Public Citizen’s Congress Watch, a full faculty member at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a partner at the law firm Cuneo, Waldman & Gilbert, LLP. He is a graduate of Columbia College and NYU School of Law.

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Bill Moyers  
Bryan Stevenson

## 2012

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The Hon. Judith S. Kaye

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Jane C. Sherburne

## 2010

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# About the Brennan Center

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law is an independent, nonpartisan law and policy institute that works to reform, revitalize, and when necessary, defend our country's systems of democracy and justice. Part think tank, part legal advocacy group, and part communications hub, we work to craft and advance a transformative reform agenda—solutions that aim to make American democracy work for all.

Founded 25 years ago by the clerks and family of U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., we have grown to a staff of 150 lawyers, researchers, writers, and advocates based in New York and Washington, D.C., with an annual budget of \$40 million. *The Guardian* called us “the foremost non-partisan organization devoted to voting rights.”

## Stay Engaged

Informed, engaged citizens are our democracy's best defense. Here's how you can keep up with the latest from the Brennan Center.

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