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The Denver Foundation Announces 2019 Philanthropic Leadership Award Winners

*Michael L. Gilbert, Elizabeth T. Meck honored as champions of philanthropy*

Denver, CO — The Denver Foundation is pleased to announce Michael L. Gilbert and Elizabeth T. Meck as the winners of the 2019 Philanthropic Leadership Award.

The Denver Foundation’s Philanthropic Leaders Award recognizes professional advisors who have distinguished themselves as champions of philanthropy and the charitable community. Since 2004, The Denver Foundation has recognized more than 50 outstanding professional advisors.

This year’s winners were announced by Javier Alberto Soto, CEO and President of The Denver Foundation; Ben Perry, The Denver Foundation’s Director of Professional Advisor Programs; and L. William Schmidt, Jr., Denver Foundation Trustee and winner of the 2018 Philanthropic Legacy Award. Guests included current and former members of the Professional Advisors Council.

Professional Advisors are an absolutely critical partner in The Denver Foundation’s mission. Seventy percent of new donor-advised funds start originate with an advisor referral.

“Advisors play a tremendously important role in educating their clients about the importance of and the tools to accomplish impactful philanthropy,” says Perry, who joined The Denver Foundation in September. “The Denver Foundation aspires to be a resources to advisors by helping them structure gifts in the context of a client’s overall wealth plan and developing a discovery process for clients to define their mission, values, and charitable goals.”

**About This Year’s Winners**

**Michael L. Gilbert**

Michael Gilbert graduated from the University of Rochester and from New York University School of Law. Following law school, Michael and his wife, Sara, moved to Denver as volunteers in the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program. Michael was a staff attorney for Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver, heading its housing and urban environment section for four years. Since 1975, Michael has engaged in the private practice of law concentrating mainly in estate planning, probate, and elder law issues. He served as general counsel to the Colorado Dental Association for several decades and as investigative counsel to the Colorado Supreme Court Grievance Committee.
Michael has served on the boards of Colorado Air Pollution Variance Board, the Colorado Housing Assistance Corporation, and as President of the Denver Institute for Jewish Education.

Michael and Sara have been married for over 50 years. They have three adult children and six wonderful grandchildren.

Elizabeth T. Meck, M.A., J.D., Vice President, The Northern Trust Company

As a member of the Fiduciary Advisory team, Elizabeth provides fiduciary and legal expertise in the implementation of financial, estate, and tax plans for high net-worth individuals, entrepreneurs, and families. Before joining Northern Trust in 2016, Elizabeth focused her legal practice on all areas of estate and wealth transfer planning, fiduciary advising, trust and estate administration, and probate litigation. Most recently, she was a member of the Fiduciary Solutions group at Holland & Hart LLP in Denver. Prior to pursuing her law degree, Elizabeth spent several years in education.

Elizabeth received her J.D. from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. She also holds an M.A. in Education from the University of Denver and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Virginia.

Elizabeth serves on Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for the Colorado Women’s Bar Association. She is an active member of the Trust & Estate Section of the Colorado Bar Association, currently serving as an at-large member of the Executive Council. Elizabeth also serves on the Professional Advisors Council for the Denver Foundation and is involved with the Rocky Mountain Estate Planning Council and the Women’s Estate Planning Council. She enjoys volunteering with several location organizations focused on education and health matters affecting women and children.

About The Denver Foundation

The Denver Foundation is a community foundation that inspires people and mobilizes resources to improve life in Metro Denver. In 2018, the Foundation and its donors awarded nearly $80 million in grants. The Denver Foundation has three roles: stewarding an endowment to meet current and future needs for Metro Denver, working with community leaders to address the core challenges that face the community, and managing more than 1,000 charitable funds on behalf of individuals, families, and businesses. For more information, visit www.denverfoundation.org.

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