

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Legacy Charter School to Honor Dentons and Architect Avi Lothan at the 2026 Legacy Builder Sneaker Ball

Chicago, IL — Legacy Charter School proudly announces that **Dentons** will be recognized as the 2026 *Community Impact Honoree* and **Avi Lothan** will be honored as the 2026 *Individual Impact Honoree* at the upcoming Legacy Builder Sneaker Ball.

Together, these honorees represent the visionary partnership, design excellence, and sustained commitment that have shaped Legacy’s growth and long-term sustainability in Chicago’s North Lawndale community.

A Founding Vision: Dentons

Dentons’ connection to Legacy is not simply philanthropic, it is foundational.

Legacy Charter School was established in 2005 by Dentons’ legacy firm, Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, in honor of the firm’s 100th anniversary, becoming the first charter school ever founded and funded by a law firm. For nearly two decades, Dentons has remained an enduring partner in advancing Legacy’s mission to provide a transformative educational experience for scholars in North Lawndale, a historically under-resourced and economically disadvantaged community on Chicago’s West Side.

Dentons played a critical role in securing and structuring New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) financing that made Legacy’s state-of-the-art school facility possible. Through expert legal guidance and strategic refinancing efforts, Dentons ultimately helped generate a significant net financial benefit to the school, strengthening its long-term sustainability and expanding opportunities for scholars.

Beyond pro bono legal services, Dentons colleagues continue to actively support Legacy through Board of Directors service, volunteerism, mentorship, fundraising, and community engagement. Their sustained involvement reflects not episodic philanthropy, but institutional commitment.

Transformational Design and Enduring Partnership: Avi Lothan

As lead architect of Legacy’s Platinum LEED-certified building, Avi Lothan translated vision into a physical environment designed for excellence.

The school’s facility was intentionally designed to maximize natural light, energy efficiency, environmental stewardship, and collaborative learning, creating a welcoming, future-focused space where scholars and educators can thrive. Achieving Platinum LEED certification reflects a powerful belief: students in North Lawndale deserve access to world-class learning environments.

Lothan's impact did not end when construction was complete.

He continues to provide pro bono consultation on building-related matters, offering his expertise to ensure the facility remains responsive, sustainable, and aligned with Legacy's mission. In addition, he remains a committed donor and active presence in the school community, regularly attending Legacy's Leadership Breakfast, Career Day, and the Sneaker Ball fundraiser.

His ongoing engagement exemplifies what it means to build not only a structure, but a lasting relationship.

Building Legacy Together

Located in North Lawndale, Legacy Charter School serves more than 460 scholars from kindergarten through eighth grade.

The Legacy Builder Sneaker Ball convenes civic leaders, corporate partners, Legacy alumni, families, and community stakeholders for an evening celebrating the partnerships that continue to expand opportunity in North Lawndale. The event reflects more than two decades of collaboration and shared commitment to educational excellence.

Proceeds from the annual Sneaker Ball support academic enrichment, leadership development, and STEAM programming for Legacy scholars.

"Dentons and Avi Lothan embody what it means to be true Legacy Builders," said Yvette Warren, Director of Development at Legacy Charter School. "Their vision, expertise, and sustained commitment have helped create both the institutional foundation and the physical environment that allow our scholars to thrive."

The 2026 Legacy Builder Sneaker Ball will take place on **Friday, May 1 at the Bridgeport Art Center**. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

For media inquiries, sponsorship opportunities, or event information, please contact:

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About Legacy Charter School

Founded in 2005, Legacy Charter School is located in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood and serves scholars from kindergarten through eighth grade. Legacy is committed to academic excellence, character development, and preparing scholars to become the leaders of tomorrow.