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## **IPEMA Honors Milton Chappell, Esq. as Inaugural Champion Award Recipient**

Harrisburg, PA (May 5, 2026) — The International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) proudly announced Milton Chappell, Esq. as the first-ever recipient of its newly established IPEMA Champion Award during the association's Annual Membership Meeting and 30th Anniversary Celebration held on May 5 in Dallas, Texas.

Chappell was selected by a unanimous vote of the IPEMA Board of Directors as the inaugural honoree in recognition of his decades of unwavering service and significant contributions to both IPEMA and the playground industry. His leadership, advocacy, and passion for advancing safe, high-quality play environments have left a lasting impact on the association and the communities it serves.



*Milton Chappell, Esq. (center) poses for a photo with his children, Marty Chappell and Monet Chappell-Deems, who attended the event to see him receive the first-ever IPEMA Champion Award.*

Contact [communications@ipema.org](mailto:communications@ipema.org) for this or other photos.

"IPEMA would not be what it is today without Milton's early involvement and continued guidance," said Denise Calabrese, CAE, Executive Director of IPEMA. "He drafted the original articles of incorporation and has served the association faithfully as our legal counsel since its inception. His commitment has been instrumental in shaping our foundation and ensuring our long-term success."

Calabrese continued, "In the intricate world of association law, Milton has been far more than a legal advisor; he has been our organization's primary anchor in a complex legal landscape. His tireless commitment to keeping IPEMA compliant and in good legal standing has provided the firm foundation upon which many of our successes were built."

IPEMA President Mike Sutton echoed those sentiments.

"Milton's collaborative spirit and sincere commitment to the association have helped guide important decisions and strengthen relationships across the industry," said Sutton. "It is an honor to recognize all he has done."

Established as part of IPEMA's 30th anniversary celebration, the Champion Award recognizes individuals whose dedication, leadership, and service have played a vital role in advancing the association and the playground industry. The award serves as a tribute to those who have helped build and sustain IPEMA's legacy while inspiring future generations of industry leaders.

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### **About IPEMA**

The International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to advancing product safety, accessibility, quality, and innovation in the playground industry. Through certification programs, education, advocacy, and industry collaboration, IPEMA supports the development of safe and engaging play environments. For more information, visit [www.ipema.org](http://www.ipema.org).