



News Release

"The Voice for Real Estate" in Illinois

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Ezekiel 'Zeke' Morris honored as 2023 Illinois REALTOR® of the Year

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Ezekiel “Zeke” Morris, designated managing broker of EXIT Strategy Realty/EMA Management on the South Side of Chicago, is the 2023 Illinois REALTOR® of the Year. The award honors individuals whose dedication to excellence has profoundly enhanced the industry.

Morris was honored April 24 at a REALTOR® of the Year Banquet in Springfield. The event also recognized 23 exemplary REALTORS® from local associations around the state.

Morris has been a leader in the real estate industry with his local association, the Chicago Association of REALTORS®, Illinois REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS®.

As the 2022 Illinois REALTORS® President, Morris led the state association and its more than 50,000 members during the launch of the association’s American Dream of Homeownership campaign. He now serves as immediate past president.

Morris began his real estate career in 1989. He is a member and past president of the Chicago Association of REALTORS® and was named its 2013 REALTOR® of the Year. The Chicago association awards Zeke Morris scholarships supporting the education efforts of those who have shown a commitment to the stabilization and economic development of the south and west sides of Chicago.

At the state level, Morris has been involved in a number of working groups and committees and has chaired the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Housing Opportunity Working Group, the Bylaws Committee, the Public Policy and Government Affairs Member Involvement Group and the State

Legislative Contacts Working Group. He has served multiple terms on the Illinois REALTORS® Board of Directors and is the state association's first African American president.

Morris understands the power a strong REALTOR® political advocacy program can have on the industry. He is among an elite group of REALTORS® nationwide who have been inducted into the REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC) Hall of Fame for aggregate lifetime contributions of at least \$25,000.

At the national level, Morris is serving on the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Board of Directors and was its 2020 Liaison for Community Engagement. Morris chaired NAR's Fair Housing Act Anniversary Working Group and the Fair Housing Act Anniversary Implementation Group and helped spearhead the national association's efforts to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act in 2018.

Morris earned a bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa University and is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. He is a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago and is involved in the church's housing ministry.

He also serves as president of the board of directors for Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc., a Chicago human services organization that offers educational programs, child development, senior services, vocational training, mental health and residential services.

[Illinois REALTORS®](#) is a voluntary trade association whose more than 50,000 members are engaged in all facets of the real estate industry. In addition to serving the professional needs of its members, the association works to protect the rights of private property owners in the state by recommending and promoting legislation that safeguards and advances the interest of real property ownership.