



# CHICAGO CISO OF THE YEAR PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND NOMINATION FORM

(v2024-04)

The **Chicago CISO of the Year Committee** and the Chicago Chapters of **AITP**, **ChicagoFIRST**, **InfraGard**, **ISACA**, **ISSA**, **PAABC**, **SIM**, and **WiCyS** invite you to submit exceptional cybersecurity leaders for the **Chicago Area CISO of the Year Award!**

## BACKGROUND

The current business climate has seen an unprecedented number of cybersecurity related events. Cybercriminals and nation-state actors continue to probe organizational defenses with the intent to disrupt operations, exfiltrate sensitive information, and monetize attacks. Between these threats and the increasing regulatory and liability climate, never has the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) been asked to navigate more difficult terrain.

Originally patterned after the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Year Award sponsored by AITP Chicago, SIM-Chicago and the Executive Club of Chicago, this program seeks to recognize outstanding CISOs for the contributions they make to their organizations, the information security profession, and the local community. The award process is overseen by the Chicago CISO of the Year Program Committee, a not-for-profit volunteer organization supported by AITP Chicago and operated by local area information security leaders.

## AWARDS OVERVIEW

We are in our eleventh year of operation and our third year of offering two awards: the “ENTERPRISE” award for CISOs from organizations with more than \$4B USD in revenue, and the “MID-CAP” award for those from organizations with less than \$4B in revenue. If a CISO does not have company-wide responsibilities, the combined revenue of the business units under their remit will be used to determine their award category.

## PROCESS SUMMARY

Nomination is an open process that can be initiated by anyone with direct experience working with the nominee. Submitted nominations are reviewed to ensure that the nominee meets the requirements laid out in the Nomination Form. Nominees demonstrate their competency and achievements through a multi-staged application process that includes a detailed written questionnaire, and a series of formal and informal interviews with a panel of industry peer-level CISO judges. The program spans over five months and culminates with a final interview and selection process completed by a panel of local area CEOs. The CISO of the Year winner is announced at an Awards Ceremony held in October of the same year.

*Please find the Nomination Form on the last page.*

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS	
Wayne Johnson, Founder	<a href="mailto:wayne.johnson@ChicagoCISOoftheYear.com">wayne.johnson@ChicagoCISOoftheYear.com</a>
Sally Martin, Co-Chair	<a href="mailto:sally.martin@ChicagoCISOoftheYear.com">sally.martin@ChicagoCISOoftheYear.com</a>
Michael Phillips, Co-Chair	<a href="mailto:michael.phillips@ChicagoCISOoftheYear.com">michael.phillips@ChicagoCISOoftheYear.com</a>

*On behalf of the Committee, prior winners, nominees and the CISOs of the Chicago region, thank you for your nomination and participation in the Program.*

Wayne Johnson, Founder

## EVALUATION PROCESS

1. Nominees are submitted to the program by the information security community. Anyone who has a direct working relationship with a CISO can nominate that individual for the CISO of the Year Program.
2. Participation in the program requires explicit agreement from the nominee.
3. Nominee fills out a multi-page application covering multiple topic areas relevant to the Information Security profession and community.
4. Each nominee will be assigned at least two judges to conduct a 60- to 90-minute interview. These interviews are strongly preferred, but not required, to be in person.
5. Judges evaluate both the written and verbal submissions as compared to other nominees.
6. Scores of all nominees will be evaluated, discussed and calibrated by the Judges Committee (JC). The JC consists of all volunteer CISO peer group judges.
7. The Head of the Judges Committee (HJC) will facilitate the calibration sessions with a focus being on the four nominees with the highest scores. The HJC does not submit scores for any nominees. If two nominees have the same score, the tiebreaker is decided by the HJC and is determined by the nominee's participation in the program (quantity and engagement level).
8. The two nominees with the top scores in each category will advance to the CEO evaluation round.
9. CEOs will interview the two finalists in each category and select the winner. Tiebreaker Rule: If the CEOs deadlock, the finalist with the highest score wins. If both finalists have the same score, the HJC will select the winner.

## PRIOR CISO OF THE YEAR WINNERS

2023: Darin Hurd, CISO, Guaranteed Rate (ENTERPRISE)  
Neil Witek, CISO, Oak Street Health (MID-CAP)

2022: Mahmood Khan, SVP & Global CISO, CNA Financial Corporation (ENTERPRISE)  
Walter Lefmann, Director of Security, Chicago Trading Company (MID-CAP)

2021: Ricardo Lafosse, CISO, Kraft Heinz Company

2020: Paige Adams, Global CISO, Zurich Insurance

2019: Jill Rhodes, CISO, Option Care

2018: Bradley Schaufenbuel, CISO & VP, Paylocity

2017: Erik Decker, Chief Security & Privacy Officer, University of Chicago Medicine

2016: Todd Fitzgerald, CISO, Grant Thornton International Ltd.

2015: Kevin Novak, CISO and Technology Risk Officer, Northern Trust Bank

2014: Arlan McMillan, CISO, Department of Innovation and Technology, City of Chicago

2013: Jason Witty, CISO & SVP, US Bank

## PRIOR EXECUTIVE JUDGES

2023: Matt Coughlin, CEO, XSELL Technologies; Rushil Desai, CEO, Aetna Better Health of Illinois; Stu Hanson, CEO, Avaneer Health; and Bob McGonigle, CEO, Martin Brower

2022: Patrick Blandford, CEO, Green Shield Risk Solutions; Wells Hutchinson, CEO, Delta Dental; and Tom Monahan, CEO, DeVry University

2021: Bradley Alter, CEO, Certified Health Management, and Sunil Cutinho, President, CME Clearing

2020: Bob McGonigle, CEO, Martin Brower and Michael O'Grady, CEO, Northern Trust

2019: Doug Kofoid, CEO, DialogTech and Tony Lorenz, CEO, PRA and Jo Ann Rooney, Pres., Loyola Univ.

2018: Sharon O'Keefe, President, UCMC and John Walden, CEO, FTD

2017: Anders Gustafsson, CEO, Zebra Technologies and Tom Richards, Executive Chairman, CDW

2016: David Nelms, CEO, Discover Financial and Steve Lieber, CEO, HIMSS

2015: Artur Fridberg, CEO, ebounthost and Dan Yunker, CEO, MCHC/LLH

2014: Deborah Gage, CEO, Medecision and Rick Waddell, CEO, Northern Trust

2013: none

## TIMELINE

<p><b>April 1, 2024</b></p>	<p>Program launch announcement and opening of nominations via Chicago CISO of the Year website (<a href="https://chicagocisoofttheyear.com">https://chicagocisoofttheyear.com</a>)</p> <p>Links and nomination forms shared with sponsors and partners <a href="#">AITP</a>, <a href="#">ChicagoFIRST</a>, <a href="#">InfraGard</a>, <a href="#">ISACA</a>, <a href="#">ISSA</a>, <a href="#">PAABC</a>, <a href="#">SIM</a> and <a href="#">WiCyS</a></p>
<p><b>Tuesday, May 21, 2024</b> 5:00pm – 8:00pm</p>	<p>First Mixer Event: <a href="#">Smith and Wollensky</a> on the Chicago River 318 N State St, Chicago IL 60654</p> <p><a href="#">Register at AITP website</a></p>
<p><b>Tuesday, June 25, 2024</b> 5:00pm – 8:00pm</p>	<p>Second Mixer Event (Suburban Event): <a href="#">Gibson's Bar &amp; Steakhouse</a> 5464 N River Rd, Rosemont IL 60018</p> <p><a href="#">Register at AITP website</a></p>
<p><b>Friday, July 20, 2024</b></p>	<p>Final day for nominations to be submitted</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, July 23, 2024</b> 5:00pm – 8:00pm</p>	<p>Third Mixer Event (Partner Event): <a href="#">Bar Siena</a> in Fulton Market 832 W Randolph St, Chicago IL 60607</p> <p><a href="#">Register at AITP website</a></p>
<p><b>Sunday, August 4, 2024</b></p>	<p>Final day for nominees to submit application forms</p>
<p><b>August 12-21, 2024</b></p>	<p>Program judges review applications and perform interviews with nominees</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, August 27, 2024</b> 5:00pm – 8:00pm</p>	<p>Fourth Mixer Event: <a href="#">Metropolitan Club</a>, Oak Room, 67<sup>th</sup> Floor, Willis Tower 233 S Wacker Drive, Chicago IL 60606</p> <p><a href="#">Register at AITP website</a></p>
<p><b>September 9, 2024</b></p>	<p>Finalists announced for each category</p>
<p><b>September 13-23, 2024</b></p>	<p>CEO judges interview finalists and select winners</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, October 15, 2024</b> 7:30am – 10:00am</p>	<p>Award Breakfast: <a href="#">Metropolitan Club</a>, Oak Room, 67<sup>th</sup> Floor, Willis Tower 233 S Wacker Drive, Chicago IL 60606</p> <p><i>Doors open at 7:30am. Ceremony begins at 8:00am.</i></p> <p><a href="#">Register at AITP website</a></p>

## PARTNERS



## NOMINATION FORM

Thank you for recognizing a leading Chicago area CISO. Please complete the below form-fillable fields. All nominees must formally accept nomination to be considered for an award. Individuals may nominate more than one CISO for consideration.

### NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Individual submitting nomination has direct experience working with nominee.
2. Goods or services have not been exchanged or promised for nomination.
3. Nominations must be submitted to [nominations@chicagocisooftheyear.com](mailto:nominations@chicagocisooftheyear.com) no later than **Friday, July 20, 2024**.

### NOMINEE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nominee leads the Information Security program for the organization (CISO or equivalent).
2. Nominee has been in role for a minimum of 12 months at the time of nomination.
3. Nominees remain active in the role until the end of September of the Award year.
4. Nominee's organization is based out of or has a significant office presence in the Chicago area.
5. Nominee's primary work location is in the Chicago area.

NOMINATING FOR WHICH AWARD? <i>(select one) --&gt;</i>		ENTERPRISE (>\$4B USD Revenue)	MID-CAP (<\$4B USD Revenue)
		Nominee	Submitter
Name			
Title			
Company			
Address			
Office Phone			
Mobile Phone			
Email Address			
LinkedIn Profile URL			

*form fillable fields*