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EY announces Shatterproof CEO Gary Mendell Named an EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2016 Finalist in New York

**NEW YORK** – EY has announced that Shatterproof founder and CEO Gary Mendell is a finalist for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2016 Award in the New York Region. The awards program, which takes place in more than 145 cities in 60 countries around the world, recognizes entrepreneurs who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement.

“I’m honored to be chosen as an EY Entrepreneur of the Year finalist,” Mendell said. “I left my career in the hotel industry to found Shatterproof, a nonprofit devoted to ending addiction. I try bring the same innovation and entrepreneurial spirit I did as a CEO to Shatterproof to find new ways to combat addiction and spare other families the same tragedy mine suffered.”

Gary founded Shatterproof after his son, Brian, lost his battle with addiction in 2011. Shatterproof is a national organization committed to fighting addiction and ending the stigma associated with this disease.

Gary is the founder, co-owner, and former CEO of HEI Hotels & Resorts. HEI owns more than 60 hotels, with 9,000 employees and more than \$900 million in annual revenue. He’s also a former president of Starwood Hotels, where he spearheaded the company’s purchase of the Sheraton and Westin brands.

Award winners will be announced at a special gala event on Wednesday, June 22 at the New York Marriott Marquis. Regional award winners are eligible for consideration for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National program. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner, will be announced at the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards gala in Palm Springs, California, on November 19, 2016. The awards are the culminating event of the EY Strategic Growth Forum®, the nation’s most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies.

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