

NLADA's 2024 Beacon of Justice Awards: CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS

NLADA's Beacon of Justice Awards honor members of the pro bono legal community who are tireless advocates for equal justice. Each year the awards highlight one area of pro bono work that aligns with NLADA's mission of equal access to justice. The 2024 Awards will feature law firms who are addressing issues related to CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS, for example, work with Afghan refugees, death penalty work, and resentencing of individuals as juveniles to life without parole. At NLADA, we understand the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and other characteristics that may create interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. Work that focuses on reducing these injustices is vital, and we want to shine a spotlight on firms addressing these complex challenges in their pro bono practice.

Understanding that CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS is a broad theme, we are particularly interested in learning how the private bar actively engages in projects to advance civil and/or human rights. Civil rights is defined as guarantees of equal social opportunities and equal protection, regardless of race, religion, or other personal characteristics, based on laws, while human rights are guarantees and protections based on one's rights as a human being.

It is the work that focuses on the protection from discrimination, injustice, and inequality on the national and global level that we seek to highlight.

Eligible law firms will have provided pro bono legal assistance to families, individuals, organizations, community groups, or others, between January 1 and December 31, 2023.

Application Summary

- In 800 words or less, describe how the law firm's pro bono work intentionally addressed Civil & Human Rights focusing on low income and vulnerable individuals, families, or communities.
- Attach additional articles or materials (no more than 3) that illustrate the work described in the narrative summary.
- Provide the primary contact person(s) in your organization that we may contact if we have questions about your application.
- Identify the number of attorneys in your firm, the total number of pro bono hours your firm provided between January 1 and December 31, 2023, and the total number of pro bono hours devoted to Civil & Human Rights work between January 1 and December 31, 2023.
- Identify if a member of your firm serves on NLADA's Board of Directors.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2024

Winners will be notified in mid-April and formally recognized on June 6, 2024 during NLADA's Exemplar Awards Gala. NLADA also will produce a video and a digital "print" publication highlighting the work of the winners that will be given to the firms, promoted to the wider equal justice community, added to the NLADA website, and amplified on social media. Awardees wishing to participate in the video and digital publication will be asked to submit high resolution imagery with accompanying descriptions. **For additional information, please contact Aileen Moffatt at a.moffatt@nlada.org**



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Defender Association