

The NLADA Annual Conference Awards Nomination Guidelines and Process

Invitation and Eligibility

Each year the National Legal Aid & Defender Association's Annual Conference brings together civil legal aid, public defense and public interest leaders and advocates from across the country to honor their own. The NLADA Annual Conference Awards honor distinguished men and women for outstanding contributions to the delivery of civil legal services and public defense representation. Members are invited to nominate their exceptional colleagues for the Annual Conference Awards. Please visit our Web site, www.nlada.org, for a list of each award's past winners.

Awards Process

You are encouraged to submit your nomination in a timely manner. The deadline for receipt of all award nominations and their supporting documents is **Friday, August 30**. You will receive a postcard from the NLADA training division acknowledging receipt of your nomination within four weeks of its arrival at NLADA. If you do not receive your postcard, please contact Aiyana Bullock, training assistant, at (202) 452-0620 x207. During the fall, the nominations will be reviewed and award decisions will be made by the Conference Committee. All decisions of the committee will be final and binding. The committee may bestow more than one award in a particular category or it may elect not to confer an award in a particular category. Announcement letters will be mailed by the end of September 2002. Winners will be recognized at an honors presentation at NLADA's Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on November 15, 2002.

Winners (or their designated representatives) will be invited to attend the NLADA Annual Conference for the formal presentation. Unfortunately, NLADA cannot underwrite the cost of travel to the conference to accept the award.

Award Criteria

Each NLADA Annual Conference Award has its own eligibility requirements and criteria. Please see individual award listings. Be sure that your letter of nomination explains why your nominee meets the specific criteria of the award. The Conference Committee will consider your nominee only for the award you have specified in your letter. Current members of the NLADA Board of Directors, Policy Groups, Conference Committee and staff are ineligible for consideration.

Nomination Packet

The nomination packet should be on 8 ½ x 11-inch paper. Please send an original and ten (10) copies of each nomination and supporting materials. Copies should be collated and three-hole punched. Each packet should include the following documents:

✂ The **Nomination Information Sheet** should be the first page in the nomination packet. This form can be found at http://www.nlada.org/Training/Train_Annual/Train_Annual_Awards. A copy is enclosed.

✂ The **Letter of Nomination** should include the following:

- ~ Name of the award for which the nominee is a candidate.
- ~ Explanation of how the nominee fits the enumerated criteria for the specific award (see “Award Eligibility and Criteria” and specific information for each award).
- ~ A detailed description of the nominee’s achievements.
- ~ Outstanding events or work beyond the call of duty.
- ~ Information about the impact of the nominee’s achievements on the client community, the community in general, or the development of law in the jurisdiction.

✂ **Letters of Support** (no more than three) should not be as detailed as the nomination letter and should address the nominee’s impact on the letter writer or the nominee’s community. Letters of Support should not exceed one page each.

✂ **Other Supporting Documents** may include newspaper clippings, other publicity received, awards received or other supporting materials. Additional documents must be limited to 10 pages.

✂ **Nominee’s Resume.**

Submitting the Nomination

Ten copies of the nomination packet – including the information sheet, letter of nomination, letters of support, other supporting documents and resume – must be received in the NLADA office by **Friday, August 30, 2002**. Applications should be mailed to:

NLADA Annual Conference Award Nominations
1625 K Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006-1604

Technical Assistance

Current members of the NLADA Board of Directors, Policy Groups, Conference Committee and staff may not make award nominations, be involved in the preparation of the nomination packet, or promote the candidacy of a nominee. However, an NLADA member who wishes to nominate someone for an award and needs clerical or other technical assistance to complete the application process may contact Elizabeth Arledge, NLADA director of communications, to arrange for such assistance.

Join the NLADA Community

Whether or not you choose to nominate someone for an Annual Conference Award, we invite you to join the NLADA community. Go to the NLADA Web site, www.nlada.org, for information about the advantages of being an NLADA member.

Reginald Heber Smith Award



Award Statement

The **Reginald Heber Smith Award**, given annually, recognizes the dedicated services and outstanding achievements of a civil legal aid attorney or an indigent defense attorney while employed by an organization supporting such services. The “Reggie” is named for a former counsel at the Boston Legal Aid Society and the author of *Justice and the Poor*, published by the Carnegie Foundation in 1919.

Award Eligibility and Criteria

A person is eligible to be recognized for service as a civil legal aid attorney or an indigent defense attorney while employed by an organization supporting such service. The award may be given up to two years after the attorney’s termination of employment from the organization. The person must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The attorney has provided extraordinary and successful legal advocacy on behalf of clients who could not otherwise afford counsel;
- The attorney has significantly advanced the cause of equal justice for individual clients or low-income communities; and
- The attorney exemplifies, through his or her record of exceptional advocacy, leadership, and dedication, the very best the equal justice community has to offer.

Denison Ray Award



Award Statement

The **Denison Ray Award**, awarded biennially, honors an individual who has provided exceptional service to the legal aid community as a staff member, client board member or volunteer of a provider program. The “Denny” is named for a career legal aid activist who served as executive director of legal services programs in Missouri, Maine, North Carolina and New York and was a long-time leader of the Project Advisory Group.

Award Eligibility and Criteria

A person who has provided at least five (5) years of service to the legal aid community as a staff member, a client board member or a volunteer of a legal aid program will be eligible for the “Denny” award. The person must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The individual has made extraordinary contributions to the goal of achieving equal justice for low-income people;
- The individual has demonstrated leadership in a local, state or national role and has acted as a mentor for others;
- The individual has set an inspirational example of industriousness, creativity and determination in his/her legal aid work; and
- The individual exhibits a passionate quest for fairness and equality and a history of commitment to equal justice.

Emery A. Brownell Award



Award Statement

The **Emery A. Brownell Award**, awarded biennially, gives national recognition to newspapers, magazines, filmmakers, and television and radio stations that have informed the public about the crucial role played by civil legal aid or defender organizations in ensuring equal justice for those who cannot afford counsel. This award commemorates Emery Brownell, who was NLADA's executive director from 1940 until his death in 1961.

Award Eligibility and Criteria

Entries of media coverage, including print, audio and audiovisual coverage, will be eligible if they have appeared during the two years preceding the award nomination deadline, and meet one or more of the following award criteria:

- Inform and educate the public about the need for legal services to persons who have traditionally been denied such assistance;
- Foster a greater understanding of the lawyer's role in the resolution of disputes, particularly those involving persons who traditionally have been denied access to justice;
- Bring attention to the importance of the constitutional right to counsel in criminal proceedings; and
- Bring attention to the need for civil legal assistance of low-income people and communities.

Additional Submission Requirements

For print publications, the nomination packet must include a photocopy of the publication. For audio or audiovisual coverage, the nomination packet must include a single copy of the production on audiocassette, videocassette, DVD or CD Rom, along with a written transcript of the entry.

Arthur von Briesen Award



Award Statement

The **Arthur von Briesen Award**, given biennially, honors a private attorney who has made substantial volunteer contributions in support of the delivery of civil legal aid or indigent defense representation. The award celebrates the achievements of the first president of NLADA.

Award Eligibility and Criteria

A person is eligible to be recognized for service in a volunteer capacity as a private attorney, and must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The attorney has provided extraordinary and successful legal advocacy on behalf of clients who could not otherwise afford counsel;
- The attorney has significantly advanced the cause of equal justice for individual clients or low-income communities; and
- The attorney exemplifies, through his or her record of exceptional advocacy, leadership, and dedication, the very best the private bar has to offer in *pro bono* service to the cause of justice for all.

