



OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER OF TEXAS AWARD
LIBERTY BELL AWARD
OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

**Nomination Rules and Criteria
2016-2017**

Dear Bar Leaders:

We invite you to help honor members of your community. The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) annually presents three prestigious awards:

- 1) the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award, which recognizes one young lawyer who has demonstrated professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community; and
- 2) the Liberty Bell Award, which recognizes one outstanding non-lawyer in Texas who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of Justice by instilling better understanding and appreciation of the law.
- 3) the Outstanding Mentor Award, which recognizes one attorney who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers in his or her legal community.

We encourage each local bar association to participate by selecting local award winners for recognition during your local Law Day ceremonies. Your selections can then be submitted to TYLA as nominees in the statewide awards selection process. Please note: the presentation of an award at the local level is not a requirement for nominating that person for the statewide award. You should, however, begin your selection process now.

The rules and criteria for the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas, the Liberty Bell and Outstanding Mentor awards are enclosed. Each local bar is eligible to submit one nominee for each award. Please submit one application per nominee. Nominations must be received in the TYLA office by April 3, 2017 by email or fax.

Letters of recommendation should be addressed to the Chair of the committee, 1414 Colorado, 4th Floor, Austin, TX 78701.

Rebekah Steely Brooker, Chair
TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee

Kristy Blanchard, Chair
TYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee

C.E. Rhodes, Chair
TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee

Please submit nomination packets to:

Michelle Palacios
mpalacios@texasbar.com
Fax: 512-427-4280

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the TYLA office at (800) 204-2222, ext. 1529.

Outstanding Young Lawyer Award of Texas

PURPOSE

To recognize one young lawyer in Texas who best demonstrates professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award, the nominee must:

- be licensed to practice law in Texas,
- have paid membership dues prescribed by the Supreme Court of Texas,
- be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas
- be 36 years of age or younger as of June 1, 2016 or
- initially licensed within 60 months prior to June 1, 2016.

Please note: Current officers and directors of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and members of the TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee are not eligible for consideration.

NOMINATIONS CRITERIA

The TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee will consider all outstanding qualities of each nominee in making its recommendation to the TYLA Board of Directors. Outstanding qualities include but are not limited to exemplified:

- professional proficiency,
- service to the profession, and
- service to the community.

NOMINATIONS PROCESS

Nominations must be submitted from a recognized TYLA affiliate or local bar association. Any individual, group of individuals, or other organization may submit a nomination to the local affiliate or local bar association for consideration. However, the local affiliate or local bar may only submit a single nominee for consideration for the statewide Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email or fax. The application should include the following:

- 1) A completed TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award nomination form submitted by an officer of the nominating organization/entity
- 2) A nomination letter from the nominating organization/entity explaining the qualifications of the nominee and setting forth the reasons why the nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award of Texas
- 3) The nominee's biographical resume, including an explanation of the nominee's bar service, employment and professional history, service to the community, and dedication to legal ethics and professional responsibility
- 4) Two to five letters of recommendation. Examples include letters from the nominee's clients, individuals familiar with the nominee's service to the community, the nominee's current or former employers, fellow practitioners, individuals familiar with the nominee's service to the bar, or any other individual who can explain why the nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award of Texas

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT

All nominations will be reviewed by the TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee, which will select a winner for approval by the TYLA Board of Directors at its board meeting May 12-14, 2017. The award will be presented to the recipient of the TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award at the TYLA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Dallas on June 23, 2017. The recipient will be an honored guest of TYLA at the event.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

April 3, 2017 (5 p.m.)

Liberty Bell Award

PURPOSE

To recognize one outstanding non-lawyer in Texas who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice by instilling better understanding and appreciation of the law

ELIGIBILITY

Any non-lawyer is eligible to receive this Award. Judges and lawyers or other members of the State Bar of Texas are not eligible.

NOMINATIONS CRITERIA

The Award recognizes community service that:

- Promotes a better understanding of government, especially the Bill of Rights;
- Encourages greater respect for the law and the courts;
- Stimulates a deeper sense of individual responsibility, so that citizens recognize their duties and their rights;
- Contributes to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and
- Instills better understanding and appreciation of the law.

NOMINATIONS PROCESS

Nominations must be submitted from a recognized TYLA affiliate or local bar association. Any individual, group of individuals, or other organization may submit a nomination to the local affiliate or local bar association for consideration. However, the local affiliate or local bar may only submit a single nominee for consideration for the statewide Liberty Bell Award.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email or fax. The application should include the following:

- 1) A completed TYLA Liberty Bell Award nomination form submitted by an officer of the nominating organization/entity
- 2) Biographical information about your nominee—e.g. family information; membership/offices held and honors received in civic, church, and other community organizations; and profession or employment
- 3) A narrative of accomplishments and activities that qualify the nominee for the Award, focusing on the above criteria
- 4) Two to four letters of recommendation
- 5) One to four copies of newspaper articles, publications, awards, etc., supporting the nominee's qualifications

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT

All nominations will be reviewed by the TYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee, which will select a winner for approval by the TYLA Board of Directors at its board meeting May 12-14, 2017. The award will be presented to the recipient of the TYLA Liberty Bell Award at the TYLA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Dallas on June 23, 2017. The recipient will be an honored guest of TYLA at the event.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

April 3, 2017 (5 p.m.)

Outstanding Mentor Award

PURPOSE

To recognize an attorney who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers in his or her legal community.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award, the nominee must:

- be licensed to practice law in Texas,
- have paid membership dues prescribed by the Supreme Court of Texas,
- be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas.

NOMINATIONS CRITERIA

The TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee will consider all outstanding qualities of each nominee across the state in making its recommendation to the TYLA Board of Directors. Outstanding Mentor qualities include but are not limited to exemplified:

- serves as a role model to young lawyers in his or her community,
- fosters the development of young lawyers, and
- significantly contributes to the profession and/or the community.

NOMINATIONS PROCESS

Nominations must be submitted from a recognized TYLA affiliate or local bar association. Any individual, group of individuals, or other organization may submit a nomination to the local affiliate or local bar association for consideration. However, the local affiliate or local bar may only submit a single nominee for consideration for the statewide Outstanding Mentor Award.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email or fax. The application should include the following:

- 1) A completed TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award nomination form submitted by an officer of the nominating organization/entity
- 2) A nomination letter from the nominating organization/entity explaining the qualifications of the nominee and setting forth the reasons why the nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Mentor Award
- 3) Biographical information
- 4) Two to four letters of recommendation.
- 5) One to two copies of newspaper articles, publications, awards, exhibits, etc., supporting the nominee's qualifications

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT

All nominations will be reviewed by the TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee, which will select a winner for approval by the TYLA Board of Directors at its board meeting May 12-14, 2017. The award will be presented to the recipient of the TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award at the TYLA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Dallas on June 23, 2017. The recipient will be an honored guest of TYLA at the event.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

April 3, 2017 (5 p.m.)