NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

# Call for Nominations

## 2012 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

NYSBA

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# 2012 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

The New York State Bar Association is pleased to call for nominations for the 22nd annual President's Pro Bono Service Awards. These prestigious awards recognize the dedicated members of our profession who have provided outstanding pro bono legal services to some of New York State's neediest individuals – low-income families, the homeless, veterans, battered women, and immigrants seeking asylum. It is conservatively estimated that more than 2.3 million unrepresented litigants have civil legal cases pending in New York State Courts. That number would undoubtedly be even greater, were it not for the unwavering generosity of committed pro bono attorneys. In bestowing these awards, the Association seeks first to publically acknowledge the generous contributions of the award recipients, to raise public and professional awareness about the plight of represented litigants, and, importantly, to inspire more attorneys to volunteer to do the public good. **Nominees do not have to be members of the New York State Bar Association.**

Twenty-two awards will be distributed during an awards ceremony and luncheon which will be held at the New York State Bar Association, One Elk Street, Albany, New York, 12207 on **Tuesday, May 1, 2012.** The award categories are listed below.

## Individual Attorneys

An award will be presented to an attorney from each of the **13 Judicial Districts.** The Judicial District award recipient will be selected based on the county where s/he rendered the pro bono service. An individual attorney award also will be bestowed in the category of **"young lawyer,"** defined as an attorney who is not yet 37 years of age, or anyone, regardless of age, who has been admitted to practice less than 10 years.

To be eligible for an individual attorney award, the nominee must be admitted to practice in New York State and must have rendered her/his pro bono service or participated in a pro bono program in the state. Nominees will be evaluated based on pro bono service donated during 2011, the number of pro bono clients served, the number of hours donated, impact of service on clients, and/or the impact of the service on a pro bono program or community.

## Law Firms, Law Students and Law Schools

A law firm award will be presented in each of the following categories: a **Small Law Firm** – a firm employing two to 49 attorneys; a **Med-Sized Law Firm** – a firm employing 50 to 200 attorneys; and a **Large Law Firm** – a firm employing 201 or more attorneys. Eligibility for one of the law firm awards will be based on the breadth and scope of the firm's pro bono involvement and its active and successful promotion of pro bono service by their attorneys.

One award will be presented to an outstanding law student pro bono volunteer and one award will be bestowed upon a law school group. Nominees in these categories will be evaluated on the number of pro bono hours donated during 2011, numbers of pro bono clients served, and the impact of the law student's or law school group's service on a pro bono program and/or community.

## In-House Counsel or Government Office Award

These awards are intended to recognize an attorney, an office, or a team of attorneys who have performed outstanding pro bono service through their affiliation with an in-house corporate counsel office, or part of a public service office, or government attorney office. Up to two awards may be presented in this category. Nominees in this category will be evaluated based on the same criteria governing Individual Attorneys.

## Senior Attorney Award

The highly competitive Senior Attorney award recognizes the outstanding pro bono contributions of an attorney, aged 65 or older. Nominees in this category will be evaluated based on the same criteria governing the Individual Attorney category and, in addition, must no longer be actively engaged in the full-time compensated practice of law.

## Awards Committee

Honorees will be selected by a committee consisting of the chairs of the following committees: President's Committee on Access to Justice, the Legal Aid Committee, Pro Bono Coordinators Network and the director of the Department of Pro Bono Affairs. The chairs of the President's Committee on Access to Justice may appoint up to 2 *ad hoc* members who will be selected from a part of the State not already represented on the awards committee.

**Nominators**
Nominators should be personally familiar with the nominees' pro bono contributions. Letters in support of a nomination are strongly encouraged. Nominators may submit nominations in more than one category. However, each nomination must be submitted on a separate nomination form.

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# Nomination Form

## 2012 President's Pro Bono Service Awards

**Deadline: April 4, 2012**

Nominee's Name:_____
Nominee's Organization:_____
Address: _____
_____
Phone:_____
E-mail:_____

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**Award Nominee Category** (Please Check One)

❏ Individual Attorney Judicial District _____ (See Back)
❏ Young Lawyer ❏ Senior Attorney
❏ Law Student ❏ Law School Group
❏ Large Law Firm (201 or More Attorneys)
❏ Midsized Law Firm (50 to 200 Attorneys)
❏ Small Law Firm (2 to 49 Attoneys)
❏ In-House Counsel ❏ Government Office

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Nominator's Name: _____
Nominator's Organization: _____
Address: _____
_____
Phone:_____
E-mail:_____

**Please submit this form and attach** a statement, a maximum of two double-spaced pages in length in which you explain why the nominee should receive a NYSBA 2012 President's Pro Bono Service Award. Up to three additional statements may be submitted in support of a nomination.

## Counties in the 13 Judicial Districts

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|---|---|
| **First:** | New York |
| **Second:** | Kings |
| **Third:** | Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster |
| **Fourth:** | Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington |
| **Fifth:** | Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego |
| **Sixth:** | Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, Tompkins |
| **Seventh:** | Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates |
| **Eighth:** | Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming |
| **Ninth:** | Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester |
| **Tenth:** | Nassau, Suffolk |
| **Eleventh:** | Queens |
| **Twelfth:** | Bronx |
| **Thirteenth:** | Richmond County at St. George, Staten Island |

**Send Nominations to:**

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
**PRO BONO AFFAIRS**
One Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207

Phone 518.487.5641
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www.nysba.org/probono

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VOLUNTEER FOR PRO BONO