

NYSBA 2017

Call for Nominations

**Awards for Outstanding
Achievements in Promoting
Standards of Excellence in
Mandated Representation**

and the

**Denison Ray Criminal
Defender Award**



Call for Nominations

For over 100 years, the New York State Bar Association has been a leader in advocating for the provision of high quality legal services to the poor in Criminal and Family Court proceedings. The Association's Committee to Ensure Quality of Mandated Representation has played an active role in this endeavor. As part of its work, every other year, the Committee recognizes individuals and organizations who have made exemplary efforts to make the ideal of equal justice for all a reality.

Awards for Outstanding Achievements in Promoting Standards of Excellence in Mandated Representation

A major accomplishment of the Committee to Ensure Quality of Mandated Representation was the drafting of standards for attorneys providing mandated representation in Criminal and Family Court cases. Adopted by NYSBA in 2005 and revised in 2010 and 2015, and distributed widely throughout the justice community in New York, these standards set the floor for a mandated representation system.

To encourage adherence to these standards, and in conjunction with the Committee's annual, free continuing legal education program for mandated providers, the Committee established an award intended to honor those who do not merely comply with the standards, but exceed them, setting an example for all to follow.

The award is given to up to three recipients, who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- To an attorney, group of attorneys, or organization for demonstrating consistent adherence to the highest professional standards in providing mandated representation.
- To an attorney, group of attorneys, or organization for engaging in innovative efforts to improve the overall quality of mandated representation.
- To a private individual, public officer, or organization for advocacy to promote steps by the legislature, executive or judiciary to ensure the provision of high quality mandated representation.

The award was previously given in 2007 to The Bronx Defenders; in 2009 to Joseph S. Damelio, Lawyers for Children, Inc. and The Family Court Project of Southern Tier Legal Services; in 2011 to the Office of the Appellate Defender and Charles F. O'Brien; in 2013 to New York State Defenders Association, New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation and Schulte Roth &

Zabel LLP; and in 2015 to Joanne Marci, Center for Family Representation and The Justice First Project.

Denison Ray Criminal Defender Award

The Committee is honored to also bestow the Denison Ray Criminal Defender Award, named in memory of Denison Ray, a career legal activist who led legal services programs in New York and other states. The award is intended to recognize attorneys with institutional providers who exemplify the highest level of professionalism in providing skilled and zealous representation to indigent clients in criminal proceedings.

- Up to two awards are given to staff attorneys employed by a public defender, conflict defender or non-profit corporation based on the overall quality of their legal representation and efforts to inspire, mentor and support colleagues.
- One award is given to a director of a defender program based on the ability to inspire staff to provide consistently high quality and zealous representation.

This award was previously given in 1994 to Alexander Lesyk and Howard A. Pincus; in 1995 to Thomas N. Angell and Allen Farbman; in 1997 to John H. Ciulla, Jr. and Susan Hofkin Salomon; in 1998 to Raymond A. Kelly, Jr. and Timothy B. Rountree; in 2000 to Drew R. DuBrin and Michele Fox; in 2001 to Robert E. Massi and Richard W. Rich; in 2004 to Alfred O'Connor; in 2006 to Mark J. Caruso; in 2008 to Andre A. Vitale; in 2011 to Jerome K. Frost; in 2013 to Majer Gold and Appeals Bureau Monroe County Public Defender; and in 2015 to Gregory A. Kilburn.

Nominees may be designated for either the Excellence Award, the Denison Ray Award, or both. Nominations should be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail and be received by **Friday, April 14, 2017** at

**New York State Bar Association
Department of Pro Bono Services**

One Elk Street
Albany, New York 12207
fax: 518-463-4276
pbhonors@nysba.org

Nomination Form

Deadline: April 14, 2017

Nominee's Name: _____
(Individual or Organization)

Excellence Award

Denison Ray Award

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Phone: _____

Nominee's E-mail: _____

Nominator's Name _____

Nominator's Address: _____

Nominator's Phone: _____

Nominator's E-mail: _____

Required Submission: Please provide a narrative statement, up to two double-spaced pages, explaining how the nominee fits the standards for the award(s) for which you are making the nomination. You may submit up to three additional supporting statements. Statements in support of a nomination are encouraged.

This nomination form and all supporting documents may be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail and must be received by **April 14, 2017** at:



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Department of Pro Bono Services

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