



OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER AWARD

LIBERTY BELL AWARD

OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

NOMINATION RULES AND CRITERIA

2019-2020

Dear Applicant:

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

- 1) the Outstanding Young Lawyer 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 the HYLH/HYLA Law Day Luncheon on May 8, 2020. Your selections can then be submitted to HYLA 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, 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 HYLA office by email and submitted to the emails noted below.

Letters of recommendation should be addressed to the Chair of the committee.

Krisina Zuñiga, Chair
HYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee
Email: hyla@hyla.org

Drew Bivona, Chair
HYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee
Email: secretary@hyla.org

Alvin Adjei, Chair
HYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee
Email: treasurer@hyla.org

Please submit nomination packets to the Committee Chairs at the emails noted above.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the HYLA office at (713) 224-4952.

Hyla Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

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 Hyla Outstanding Young Lawyer 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, 2019 or
- initially licensed within 60 months prior to June 1, 2019.

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

NOMINATIONS CRITERIA

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

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

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email to hyla@hyla.org. The application should include the following:

- 1) A completed Hyla Outstanding Young Lawyer Award nomination form
- 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
- 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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT

All nominations will be reviewed by the Hyla [Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee / Liberty Bell Award Committee / Outstanding Mentor Award Committee], which will select a winner for approval by the Hyla Board of Directors at its board meeting on March 18, 2020. The award will be presented to the recipient of the Houston Young Lawyer Award at the HYL/Hyla Law Day Luncheon. The Law Day Luncheon is on May 8, 2020 from 11:30am-1:00pm at the Marriott Marquis (1777 Walker). The recipient will be an honored guest at the Law Day Luncheon and may bring one guest. Note: The Chair of the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee will contact each applicant regarding the award selection by March 23, 2020.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

March 6, 2020 at 5:00 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.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email secretary@HYLA.org. 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 HYL A [Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee / Liberty Bell Award Committee / Outstanding Mentor Award Committee], which will select a winner for approval by the HYL A Board of Directors at its board meeting on March 18, 2020. The award will be presented to the recipient of the Liberty Bell Award at the HYL F/HYL A Law Day Luncheon. The Law Day Luncheon is on May 8, 2020 from 11:30am-1:00pm at the Marriott Marquis (1777 Walker). The recipient will be an honored guest at the Law Day Luncheon and may bring one guest. Note: The Chair of the Liberty Bell Award Committee will contact each applicant regarding the award selection by March 23, 2020.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

March 6, 2020 at 5:00 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 HYL A 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 HYL A Outstanding Mentor Award Committee will consider all outstanding qualities of each nominee across the state in making its recommendation to the HYL A 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.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email treasurer@hyla.org. The application should include the following:

- 1) A completed HYL A 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 HYL A [Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee / Liberty Bell Award Committee / Outstanding Mentor Award Committee], which will select a winner for approval by the HYL A Board of Directors at its board meeting on March 18, 2020. The award will be presented to the recipient of the Outstanding Mentor Award at the HYL F/HYL A Law Day Luncheon. The Law Day Luncheon is on May 8, 2020 from 11:30am-1:00pm at the Marriott Marquis (1777 Walker). The recipient will be an honored guest at the Law Day Luncheon and may bring one guest. Note: The Chair of the Outstanding Mentor Award Committee will contact each applicant regarding the award selection by March 23, 2020.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

March 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m