



2009 WSBA Awards Nominations Sought

Each year, WSBA members are asked to identify those who deserve the legal profession's recognition and appreciation. Nominations are sought for the following awards:

Award of Merit. First given in 1957, this is the WSBA's highest honor. The Award of Merit is most often given for long-term service to the Bar and/or the public, although it has also been presented in recognition of a single, extraordinary contribution or project. It is awarded to individuals only — both lawyers and non-lawyers.

Professionalism Award. This honor is awarded to a WSBA member who exemplifies the spirit of professionalism in the practice of law. "Professionalism" is defined as the pursuit of a learned profession in the spirit of service to the public and in the sharing of values with other members of the profession.

Angelo Petruss Award for Lawyers in Public Service. Named in honor of the late Angelo R. Petruss, a senior assistant attorney general who passed away during his term of service on the WSBA Board of Governors, this award is given to a lawyer in government service who has made a significant contribution to the legal profession, the justice system, and the public.

Outstanding Judge Award. This award is presented for outstanding service to the bench and for special contribution to the legal profession at any level of the court.

Pro Bono Award. This award is presented to a lawyer, non-lawyer, law firm, or local bar association for outstanding efforts in providing pro bono services. This award is based on cumulative efforts, as opposed to a lawyer's or group's pro bono hours or financial contribution.

Courageous Award. This award is presented to a lawyer who has displayed exceptional courage in the face of adversity, thus bringing credit to the legal profession.

Excellence in Diversity Award. This award is made to a lawyer, law firm, or law-related group that has made a significant contribution to diversity in the legal profession's employment of ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and other persons of diversity.

Outstanding Elected Official Award. This award is presented to an elected official for outstanding service, with special contributions to the legal profession. It is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to justice beyond the usual call of duty.

Excellence in Legal Journalism Award. This award recognizes that describing the context, facts, and players involved in the legal system with fairness and sensitivity requires intelligence, knowledge, dedication, and skill. This award is given to the journalist and his/her organization that has set the standard for relevance, clarity, accuracy, and understanding in reporting.

Lifetime Service Award. This is a special award given for a lifetime of service to the WSBA and the public. It is given only when there is someone especially deserving of this recognition.

President's Award. The President's Award is given annually in recognition of special accomplishment or service to the WSBA during the term of the current president.

Community Service Award. Lawyers are known for giving generously of their time and talents in service to their communities. This award recognizes exceptional non-law-related volunteer work and community service.

Norm Maleng Leadership Award. This award is given jointly by the WSBA and the Access to Justice Board, in honor of Norm Maleng's legacy as a leader. He was an innovative and optimistic leader committed to justice and access to justice in both civil and criminal settings. Within the profession, his leadership was characterized by his love of the law and commitment to diversity and mentorship. This award recognizes those who embody these qualities.

Award presentation. It is important to note that presentation of any WSBA award is made only when there is a truly deserving recipient. Some years, no award is given in some categories. Awards are limited to one recipient per category, except when a group of individuals earned the award together or the Awards Committee decides to honor more than one nominee.

Nomination submissions. If you know an individual who fits the criteria set forth above, please visit www.wsba.org/2009wsbaawardsinfo, download, complete, and submit the nomination form. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Please note that the completed nomination form must accompany each nomination in order to be considered. The deadline for Pro Bono Award and Norm Maleng Leadership Award nominations is March 31, 2009. The deadline for all other nominations is April 30, 2009. Please send nominations to: WSBA, Attn: Annual Awards, 1325 Fourth Ave., Ste. 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539; fax: 206-727-8310; e-mail: emilyr@wsba.org. Please contact Emily Robinson at 206-239-2125 for more information.

The awards will be presented at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner in Seattle on September 24, 2009, with the following exceptions: the Pro Bono and Norm Maleng Leadership awards will be presented at the Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference in Yakima, May 29-31.