



Committee on Mandated
Representation

Call for Nominations 2023

Award 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 on 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.

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

A major accomplishment of the Committee on 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, 2015, and 2018, 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, 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 the New York State Defenders Association, the New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation and Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP; in 2015 to Joanne Macri, the Center for Family Representation and the Justice First Project; in 2017 to New York State Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, New York State Senator John A. DeFrancisco, Antoinette Costanzo and Thomas Klein, both of the Legal Aid Society, and to the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services; and in 2019 to Clare Degnan, of the Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, to Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy, and to the Chief Judge's Commission on Parental Legal Representation; in 2022 to Tompkins County Assigned Counsel, Max Brown and Susan Lindenauer of Families and the Law.

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 the Appeals Bureau of Monroe County Public Defender; in 2015 to Gregory A. Kilburn; and in 2017 to Nancy Farrell and Amanda McHenry, jointly, Peter Wolk, and Timothy P. Donaher; and in 2019 to John J. Evans; and in 2022 to Hon. Stephen Herrick of the Albany County Public Defender's Office.

Nominees may be designated for either the Excellence Award, the Denison Ray Award, or both. The Committee may, in its discretion, bestow an award in a different category. Nominations should be submitted by e-mail and be received by **Monday, May 1, 2023** to:

Cheyenne Burke
cburke@nysba.org

Nomination Form

Deadline: May 1, 2023

Nominee's Name: _____
(Individual or Organization)

Excellence Award

Denison Ray Criminal Defender 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 e-mail and must be received by **May 1, 2023** to:

Cheyenne Burke
Cburke@nysba.org