



**LGBTQ+ Law
Section**

LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026**



NYSBA.ORG



Deadline

October 31, 2025

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2026 LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award

Presented by the LGBTQ+ Law Section

The New York State Bar Association is pleased to announce that nominations are being accepted for the 2026 LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award. The award is for an attorney who is a member of the LGBTQ+ community or an ally of the community who has constantly and consistently gone above and beyond to support the LGBTQ+ community in New York State and around the country. There are thousands of LGBTQ+ lawyers and allies in New York, who for decades have been at the forefront of the profession. In many cases, they have been the lawyers and advocates who have made social change possible at the state and national level. It is critical to celebrate these incredible people for their drive and ambition that has made it possible for the LGBTQ+ community to come closer to true equality.

The Award Task Force will consider how the attorney has supported and mentored diverse individuals to reach their own goals, created organizational change that supports inclusivity professionally and/or personally, made distinct and vital contributions on behalf of the LGBTQ+ and allied community, and has been a beacon of what it means to be a lawyer dedicated to the service of others.

The honoree will be selected by the Executive Committee of the LGBTQ+ Law Section and the Section Chair. The award will be presented at the LGBTQ+ Law Section meeting held during the 2026 NYSBA Annual Meeting in January.

To allow for adequate time for review, nominations must be received by Friday, October 31, 2025. Please direct this information to the LGBTQ+ Law Section, New York State Bar Association, One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207. Applications may also be emailed to eguerrero@nysba.org. Additional forms may be obtained by email or by calling 518-487-5535.

LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award Past Recipients

2025 – Matthew J. Skinner, The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission of the New York State Courts

2024 – Wesley R. Powell, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

2023 – Amy E. Schwartz-Wallace, Empire Justice Center

2022 – Michele Kahn, Kahn & Goldberg, LLP (Inaugural Award)



LGBTQ+ Law Section

2026 LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award



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The LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award was developed and is administered by the LGBTQ+ Law Section

Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Title/ Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Nominator: _____

Title/Affiliation: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Please provide as much detail as possible regarding the nominee's qualifications for this award, such as writings, service to bar associations or community organizations, legal representation, development of legislation, teachings, pro bono service, or other initiatives. Please include a resumé or other biographical data. Supplemental information, including news articles, brief writings by the nominee, and letters of support would be helpful in the review of the candidate. Please limit all nomination materials to 25 pages.

This nomination must be submitted by October 31, 2025.

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New York State Bar Association
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Email to eguerrero@nysba.org