



COMMITTEE FOR BAR LEADERS
OF NEW YORK STATE

Bar Leaders Innovation Awards Nomination Form



Bar Leaders Innovation Awards

The New York State Bar Association's Committee for Bar Leaders of New York State is pleased to open nominations for the Bar Leaders Innovation Awards, recognizing outstanding work by local, affinity, special purpose, and specialty bar associations across New York State, including the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

These awards honor bar associations that have creatively adapted to meet the evolving needs of their members and the broader community. Whether through new programs, initiatives, or innovative approaches, we welcome submissions that demonstrate meaningful impact, no matter the size or scope of the idea.

In addition to recognizing excellence, the awards program aims to share effective practices and inspire new projects that promote public understanding of the law, support the public good, and uphold the professional responsibilities of attorneys.

Award presentations will take place during the Conference of Bar Leaders Annual Meeting on **Friday, April 17, 2026**.

Eligibility

Projects and programs designed and significantly implemented between **January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025** are eligible for consideration.

Projects that were in place prior to January 1, 2024 are also welcome for consideration if innovations were made to the existing project that enhanced its scope and impact.

Nominated programs should:

- Involve or affect most of the members of the sponsoring association (or)
- Make a significant contribution to the bar and the public.

Examples

- Innovative Law Day Programs
- Pro Bono Projects
- Public Service Programs (i.e., Community Interaction)
- Youth and Adult Law-related Education Projects
- New Member Services
- Published reports and hosted programs supporting court reform and / or law reform

Nomination Category

The Emerging Bar

This category recognizes the work of younger bar associations. These “emerging bars” often launch bold programs to establish a presence in the communities they serve.

Eligibility requirements are the same as detailed above, with submissions in this category accepted only from bar associations that officially formed within the past 10 years (i.e., since 2015).

Criteria for Evaluation

The criteria for evaluation of the nominations are:

- Effect of the project on the bar and/or the public
- Ingenuity and creativity in planning the project
- Overall quality of the project

Nomination Requirements

- Complete the nomination form
- Designate one appropriate category:
 - Smaller Bar associations – fewer than 1,500 members
 - Larger Bar associations – 1,501 members or more
 - Emerging Bar – Incorporated less than 10 years (since 2015)
- Attach any additional supporting materials and submit online as directed
- Only one entry per association

Questions?

For questions regarding the Bar Leaders Innovation Awards, please contact:

Kim McHargue

Email: kmchargue@nysba.org

Phone: 518.487.5757

Bar Leaders Innovation Awards Nomination Form

Nominations may be sent as a PDF via e-mail to
Kim McHargue (kmchargue@nysba.org)

Nominations Must be Received No Later than March 31, 2026

Please indicate association category:

- Smaller Bar Associations (*fewer than 1,500 members*)
- Larger Bar Associations (*1,500 members or more*)
- Emerging Bar Associations (*Officially Incorporated 10 years or less – since 2015*)

Number of members at your emerging bar _____

Association Nominated _____

President _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Submitted by _____

Title _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Project Summary

(This should include primary audience, e.g. members, senior citizens, community at-large – and type of project, e.g. public service, pro bono, Law Day, law-related education.)

Please attach narrative describing project in detail.