



**LGBTQ+ Law
Section**

LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2027**



NYSBA.ORG



Deadline

Friday, October 30, 2026

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2027 LGBTQ+ VANGUARD AWARD

PRESENTED BY THE NYSBA LGBTQ+ LAW SECTION

The New York State Bar Association's LGBTQ+ Law Section is now accepting nominations for the 2027 LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award

AWARD PURPOSE

The LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award recognizes an attorney who is either:

- A member of the LGBTQ+ community; or
- An ally of the LGBTQ+ community, who has consistently gone above and beyond to advance, support, and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community in New York State and across the nation.

For decades, LGBTQ+ attorneys and allies have been leaders in advancing equality, promoting justice, and creating meaningful social change. This award celebrates those whose dedication, leadership, and service have made a lasting impact on the legal profession and the LGBTQ+ community.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Award Task Force will evaluate nominees based on their demonstrated commitment to one or more of the following:

- Supporting and mentoring LGBTQ+ individuals and other diverse communities;
- Creating organizational or institutional change that promotes inclusion and equity;
- Making significant professional or community contributions on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies;
- Demonstrating exceptional leadership, advocacy, and service to others throughout their legal career.

SELECTION PROCESS

The recipient will be selected by the Executive Committee of the LGBTQ+ Law Section and the Section Chair.

The award will be presented during the LGBTQ+ Law Section meeting at the 2027 NYSBA Annual Meeting in January 2027.

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Friday, October 30, 2026

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit completed nomination materials to:

Mercedes M. Peno

Section Liaison, Program and Event Manager
New York State Bar Association
One Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207
Phone: 518.487.5681
Email: mpeno@nysba.org

Carra Forgea

Section Liaison, Program and Event Manager
New York State Bar Association
One Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207
Phone: 518.487.5521
Email: cforgea@nysba.org

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Please include:

1. A completed nomination form.
2. A detailed description of the nominee's qualifications, including, where applicable:
 - a. Publications or writings
 - b. Service to bar associations or community organizations
 - c. Legal advocacy or representation
 - d. Legislative or policy initiatives
 - e. Teaching or educational contributions
 - f. Pro bono service
 - g. Other significant accomplishments supporting the LGBTQ+ community
3. The nominee's résumé or biographical information.
4. Optional supporting materials, such as:
 - a. Letters of recommendation or support
 - b. News articles
 - c. Publications or writings by the nominee
 - d. Other relevant documentation

Please limit all nomination materials to 25 pages.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2026	M. Lettie Dickerson, Esq., Empire Justice Center
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 Recipient)



LGBTQ+ Law Section

2027 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: _____

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Please provide a detailed statement describing why the nominee deserves the LGBTQ+ Vanguard Award. Include examples of the nominee's leadership, advocacy, mentorship, professional accomplishments, community service, and contributions to advancing LGBTQ+ equality and inclusion.

Attach additional pages if necessary.

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