Committee on Annual Award

2026 Root/Stimson Award

NOMINATION FORM

As part of its commitment to educate the public about the value lawyers bring to their community, the New York State Bar Association, through its Committee on Annual Award, presents the Root-Stimson Award to a lawyer who has demonstrated a significant, positive impact in the community, state or nation that is unrelated to the practice of law.

WE ARE SEEKING: Nominations of lawyers who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to community and volunteer service and to the improvement of the justice system. This award is presented to a lawyer admitted to practice in New York state who is actively involved in volunteer community service work.

In the spirit of Elihu Root and Henry L. Stimson, for whom the award is named, this award recognizes members of the legal profession who have given unstintingly of their time and expertise in service to the community. It will be presented at the Annual meeting of the House of Delegates and one recipient is selected at the discretion of the committee.

To be considered for the Root/Stimson Award:

1) nominees must be a member of the New York Bar but need not be a member of the New York State Bar Association.
2) nominees should personify the spirit of giving back to their community and demonstrate selfless dedication and donation of time, skills and activities that service community needs.
3) nominees may not have served as President of the New York State Bar Association

NOTE: The committee is not seeking nominees who have provided pro bono legal services representation. Those nominations should be submitted for consideration to the President's Committee on Access to Justice which administers the annual pro bono award.

Please submit the following:

* One copy of the completed nomination form.
* One copy of a narrative (500-word maximum) detailing the nominee's record of community service accomplishments. The narrative should include a detailed description of the nominee's community service activities including the names of organizations and dates of service and an explanation of the impact the nominee's activities had on the community (e.g., the unmet needs the activities fulfilled).
* Letters of support from individuals with firsthand knowledge of the nominee's community service or who have been directly impacted by such work.

Nominations may be submitted electronically to: moclair@nysba.org as either a Word document or a PDF.

Please do not submit binders. Materials cannot be returned. This nomination form may be photocopied.

Nominations and other supporting materials must be postmarked by Friday, November 20, 2026.

Deadline:
Friday, November 20 2026



MEMBERS OF NYSBA'S COMMITTEE ON ANNUAL AWARD

John H. Gross, Esq., Chair
T. Andrew Brown, Esq.
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Vivian D. Wesson, Esq.
Michelle H. Wildgrube, Esq.
Stephen P. Younger, Esq.

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Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Firm/Employer: _____

Business Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Nominator: _____

Firm/Affiliation: _____

Business Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Relationship to the Nominee: _____

Additional submission requirements:

This form and all supporting items must be postmarked or emailed no later than **Friday, November 20, 2026** to:

Melissa O'Clair
New York State Bar Association
One Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207
moclair@nysba.org


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