



OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER OF TEXAS AWARD  
LIBERTY BELL AWARD  
OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

**Nomination Rules and Criteria  
2016-2017**

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Dear Bar Leaders:

We invite you to help honor members of your community. The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) annually presents three prestigious awards:

- 1) the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award, which recognizes one young lawyer who has demonstrated professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community; and
- 2) the Liberty Bell Award, which recognizes one outstanding non-lawyer in Texas who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of Justice by instilling better understanding and appreciation of the law.
- 3) the Outstanding Mentor Award, which recognizes one attorney who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers in his or her legal community.

We encourage each local bar association to participate by selecting local award winners for recognition during your local Law Day ceremonies. Your selections can then be submitted to TYLA as nominees in the statewide awards selection process. Please note: the presentation of an award at the local level is not a requirement for nominating that person for the statewide award. You should, however, begin your selection process now.

The rules and criteria for the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas, the Liberty Bell and Outstanding Mentor awards are enclosed. Each local bar is eligible to submit one nominee for each award. Please submit one application per nominee. Nominations must be received in the TYLA office by April 3, 2017 by email or fax.

Letters of recommendation should be addressed to the Chair of the committee, 1414 Colorado, 4th Floor, Austin, TX 78701.

Rebekah Steely Brooker, Chair  
TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee

Kristy Blanchard, Chair  
TYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee

C.E. Rhodes, Chair  
TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee

**Please submit nomination packets to:**

Michelle Palacios  
[mpalacios@texasbar.com](mailto:mpalacios@texasbar.com)  
Fax: 512-427-4280

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the TYLA office at (800) 204-2222, ext. 1529.

# Outstanding Young Lawyer Award of Texas

## PURPOSE

To recognize one young lawyer in Texas who best demonstrates professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award, the nominee must:

- be licensed to practice law in Texas,
- have paid membership dues prescribed by the Supreme Court of Texas,
- be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas
- be 36 years of age or younger as of June 1, 2016 or
- initially licensed within 60 months prior to June 1, 2016.

Please note: Current officers and directors of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and members of the TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee are not eligible for consideration.

## NOMINATIONS CRITERIA

The TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee will consider all outstanding qualities of each nominee in making its recommendation to the TYLA Board of Directors. Outstanding qualities include but are not limited to exemplified:

- professional proficiency,
- service to the profession, and
- service to the community.

## NOMINATIONS PROCESS

Nominations must be submitted from a recognized TYLA affiliate or local bar association. Any individual, group of individuals, or other organization may submit a nomination to the local affiliate or local bar association for consideration. However, the local affiliate or local bar may only submit a single nominee for consideration for the statewide Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email or fax. The application should include the following:

- 1) A completed TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award nomination form submitted by an officer of the nominating organization/entity
- 2) A nomination letter from the nominating organization/entity explaining the qualifications of the nominee and setting forth the reasons why the nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award of Texas
- 3) The nominee's biographical resume, including an explanation of the nominee's bar service, employment and professional history, service to the community, and dedication to legal ethics and professional responsibility
- 4) Two to five letters of recommendation. Examples include letters from the nominee's clients, individuals familiar with the nominee's service to the community, the nominee's current or former employers, fellow practitioners, individuals familiar with the nominee's service to the bar, or any other individual who can explain why the nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award of Texas

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT

All nominations will be reviewed by the TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee, which will select a winner for approval by the TYLA Board of Directors at its board meeting May 12-14, 2017. The award will be presented to the recipient of the TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award at the TYLA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Dallas on June 23, 2017. The recipient will be an honored guest of TYLA at the event.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE:

April 3, 2017 (5 p.m.)