

**Alabama State Bar
Statewide Pro Bono & Public Interest
Awards Program**

NOMINATION CRITERIA

Volunteer Lawyers Program Committee

Submit completed applications to:

**Volunteer Lawyers Program
c/o Hilaire Armstrong
Alabama State Bar
Post Office Box 671
Montgomery, Alabama 36101**

NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY: April 1st

Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program Committee

**Alabama State Bar Statewide
Pro Bono and Public Interest Awards Program**

“Pro Bono” is derived from the Latin phrase pro bono publico meaning **“for the public good.”** It is defined as work or services done or performed free of charge. Generally, pro bono representation provides legal service to those who need them and cannot afford to pay or provides service for charitable or public interest organizations designed to address the needs of the poor.

PRO BONO AWARD CRITERIA: To recognize the outstanding pro bono efforts of attorneys, mediators, law firms and law students who are actively donating time to the civil representation of those who cannot otherwise afford legal counsel and to recognize individuals who encourage greater legal representation in and acceptance of pro bono cases.

PUBLIC INTEREST AWARD CRITERIA: Eligible recipients are lawyers who serve indigent persons, in the employ of legal aid bureaus, Legal Services Corporation funded legal organizations, law schools and other pro bono and public interest programs providing civil legal services to the disadvantaged. To be eligible, nominees must be employed by an entity that is a non-profit or receives government funding.

AWARD NOMINEES: The recipient shall be an attorney licensed in Alabama, a mediator, law firm/group or law student who has excelled in one or more of the following ways:

1. The total number of pro bono hours or complexity of cases handled;
2. The impact of the pro bono or public interest work and benefit for the community;
3. The particular expertise provided or the particular need satisfied;
4. The nature of the services provided;
5. The quality of negotiations, development of the law, or advocacy used to benefit the poor;
6. The successful recruitment of other attorneys for pro bono representation; or
7. A proven commitment to the delivery of quality legal services to the poor and to providing equal access to legal services.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES:

1. Any member of the Alabama State Bar or Alabama citizen may nominate a local attorney, mediator, law firm/group or law student for a statewide pro bono award by completing the nomination form.
2. Nominations should contain specific information about the pro bono activities in which the attorney, mediator, law firm or law student is engaged as well as the amount of time spent on pro bono matters.

3. The nomination should clearly state whether it is based upon the nominee's cumulative pro bono efforts or upon the nominee's pro bono representation in the last year.
4. It is generally expected that the nominated lawyer, mediator or law student will have completed at least fifty (50) hours of pro bono work in the previous year, unless the nomination is based on cumulative pro bono efforts.
5. If there are qualified nominees in each category the subcommittee shall award one statewide pro bono award to the outstanding law student and one to the outstanding lawyer, mediator and law firm and one Public Service Award.

SELECTION PROCESS: The Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Committee will review the nominations and select the recipient. The recipient will be notified prior to the annual meeting. All committee decisions will be final and binding. Awards will be presented at a ceremony during the Annual Meeting of the Alabama State Bar.

Category

- 1. Attorney _____
- 2. Law Firm _____
- 3. Law Student _____
- 4. Mediator _____
- 5. Public Interest _____

**Alabama State Bar
Statewide Pro Bono Awards Program
NOMINATION FORM**

Pro Bono Award Nominee

Name (or contact person, if not an individual): _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: (___) _____

Employer: _____

Home Phone: (___) _____

- 1) Does nominee regularly provide free legal representation to those who cannot otherwise afford legal counsel?

No _____ Yes _____ If yes, complete Section A.

- 2) Does the nominee promote, encourage and raise public awareness of pro bono legal services through a pro bono program or lawyer referral service?

No _____ Yes _____ If yes, complete Section B.

The Nominee may qualify under either or both Section A and B.

Section A

- 3) Please estimate number of pro bono hours donated in the last year _____

- 4) Please state whether this nomination is based on pro bono hours in the previous year or on cumulative pro bono efforts _____

- 5) Number of clients served in the last year as a result of nominee's pro bono activities _____

6) Please specify in which areas of practice the nominee's contribution has been made

7) Does the nominee provide legal assistance through a pro bono program?

No _____ Yes _____ If yes, name of program(s) _____

8) Is the nominee employed by a of legal aid bureaus, Legal Services Corporation funded legal organizations, law schools and other pro bono and public interest programs providing legal service to the disadvantaged?

No _____ Yes _____ If yes, name of program(s) _____

9) In what ways has the nominee voluntarily contributed a significant portion of time to providing legal services to poor people without charge? Was contribution primarily by way of participation in pro bono program(s) mentioned above? (Please attach additional sheet, if necessary.)

Section B

10) In what ways has the nominee voluntarily contributed a significant portion of time promoting, encouraging and raising public awareness of pro bono legal services? (Please attach additional sheet if necessary.)

11) Please provide the name(s) of the pro bono program(s) and any offices held or activities in which the nominee participates.

All nominees should complete 11, 12 and 13

12) Is there any other information you wish to provide about the nominee? _____

13) Does nominee know he/she is being nominated for this award? _____

14) Name, address and phone number of person/organization submitting this nomination:

Name _____

Association/Relationship _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone Number(s) _____

If your nominee is selected as the Pro Bono Award recipient we will need a picture of recipient for the Awards Program.

Please return to:

Volunteer Lawyer Programs Committee

**c/o Hilaire Armstrong
Alabama State Bar
Post Office Box 671
Montgomery, Alabama 36101**

You may also submit the nomination electronically in PDF format to:

Hilaire.armstrong@alabar.org

Nominations must be post marked by: APRIL 1st