

OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER OF TEXAS AWARD


LIBERTY BELL AWARD

OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

*Nomination Rules and Criteria
2011-2012*



BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®



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. Written nominations and supporting exhibits must be received in the TYLA office by **April 13, 2012**. FAXED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

All applications must be submitted in writing to:

Cori A. Harbour-Valdez, Chair
TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committee
1414 Colorado, 4th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

Sylvia A. Cardona, Chair
TYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee
1414 Colorado, 4th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

William W. Miller, Chair
TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee
1414 Colorado, 4th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

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



LIBERTY BELL AWARD

PURPOSE

To recognize 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

ELIGIBILITY

Any non-lawyer is eligible to receive this Award. Judges and lawyers or other members of the State Bar of Texas are not eligible.

NOMINATIONS CRITERIA

The Award recognizes community service that:

- Promotes a better understanding of government, especially the Bill of Rights;
- Encourages greater respect for the law and the courts;
- Stimulates a deeper sense of individual responsibility, so that citizens recognize their duties and their rights;
- Contributes to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and
- Instills better understanding and appreciation of the law.

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 Liberty Bell Award.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must be submitted by written application only, preferably in narrative form. The application should include: (1) identifying information about your local association and your nominee; (2) biographical information about your nominee—e.g. family information; membership/offices held and honors received in civic, church, and other community organizations; and profession or employment; (3) a narrative of accomplishments and activities that qualify the nominee for the Award, focusing on the above criteria; (4) letters of recommendation and testimony; and (5) copies of newspaper articles, publications, awards, etc., supporting the nominee's qualifications. The entire application, including exhibits, should be placed in a three-ring binder with no larger than a 2-inch capacity.

Submit only one copy of the application. All items should be neat and legible. Do not include original documents with the application, as we do not guarantee return of any items submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT

All nominations will be reviewed by the TYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee, which will select a winner for approval by the TYLA Board of Directors at its board meeting April 27-28, 2012. The award will be presented to the recipient of the TYLA Liberty Bell Award at the TYLA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Houston on June 15, 2012. The recipient will be an honored guest of TYLA at the event.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

April 13, 2012 (5 p.m.)

How To Set Up A Local Liberty Bell Award Program.

1. Appoint a committee within your association that will be responsible for nominating and selecting an individual to receive your local award. Solicit nominees from community leaders and/or local civic groups.
2. Select a recipient and order a plaque (an official insignia plaque is available through the ABA).
3. Present the award to your recipient at your local Law Day activity or your affiliate's annual meeting or luncheon.

Enter Your Local Liberty Bell Award Winner As A Nominee For The Statewide Award.

The deadline for receipt of an application for the TYLA Liberty Bell Award selection is April 13, 2012.

Suggested Timeline

- March 30** - Deadline to select your local Liberty Bell Award recipient.
- April 13** - Deadline to submit applications for the TYLA statewide selection.
- May 1** - Presentation to your local Liberty Bell Award recipient (Law Day USA)