



TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER
AWARD

OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

LIBERTY BELL AWARD

Nomination Rules and Criteria

APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 14, 2025

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 14, 2025, 5:00 p.m., by email.

Letters of recommendation can be emailed to:

Michelle Palacios

mpalacios@texasbar.com

Please submit nomination packets to:

Michelle Palacios

mpalacios@texasbar.com

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the TYLA office at (512) 427-1529.

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 as one document by email mpalacios@texasbar.com. The application should include the following:

- 1) A completed TYLA Liberty Bell Award nomination form submitted by an officer of the nominating organization/entity
- 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) Two to four letters of recommendation
- 5) One to four copies of newspaper articles, publications, awards, etc., supporting the nominee's qualifications

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 May 2-3, 2025. 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 San Antonio on June 20, 2025. The recipient will be an honored guest of TYLA at the event.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

April 14, 2025 (5 p.m.)