



TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER  
AWARD

OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

LIBERTY BELL AWARD

Nomination Rules and Criteria

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APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 14, 2025

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

Letters of recommendation can be emailed to:

Michelle Palacios

[mpalacios@texasbar.com](mailto:mpalacios@texasbar.com)

**Please submit nomination packets to:**

Michelle Palacios

[mpalacios@texasbar.com](mailto:mpalacios@texasbar.com)

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

# Outstanding Mentor Award

## **PURPOSE**

To recognize an attorney who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers in his or her legal community.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the TYLA Outstanding Mentor Award, the nominee must:

- be licensed to practice law in Texas,
- have paid membership dues prescribed by the Supreme Court of Texas, and
- be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas.

## **NOMINATIONS CRITERIA**

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

- serves as a role model to young lawyers in his or her community,
- fosters the development of young lawyers, and
- significantly contributes to the profession and/or 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 Mentor Award.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email [mpalacios@texasbar.com](mailto:mpalacios@texasbar.com). The application should include the following:

- 1) A completed TYLA Outstanding Mentor 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 Mentor Award
- 3) Biographical information
- 4) Two to four letters of recommendation.
- 5) One to two copies of newspaper articles, publications, awards, exhibits, etc., supporting the nominee's qualifications

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT**

All nominations will be reviewed by the TYLA Outstanding Mentor 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 Outstanding Mentor 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.)