

North Carolina Chief Justice's Professionalism Award

Introduction:

In an era when lawyers' dedication to the public good is too-often questioned, the North Carolina Chief Justice's Professionalism Award has been created to summon to the spotlight individuals whose career commitments in areas such as legal ethics, disciplinary enforcements and lawyer professionalism demonstrate the high calling and higher achievement of lawyers in modern society.

This award is presented annually to an individual or organization whose contributions have demonstrated the highest commitment to genuine professionalism and the highest standards of legal ethics. Entries are sought from those eligible that have demonstrated the good that can be accomplished by turning intellectual honesty, compassion, and practical skills in the practice of law.

Eligibility:

Individuals, law schools, universities, state and local bar associations, law firms and not-for-profit law related organizations whose contributions in the area of lawyer professionalism set an example of insight into the demands of legal professionalism, dedication to the highest level of ethical conduct, and a vision of constant improvement of lawyer regulation in the public interest.

Although significant contributions to the work of the organized bar merit strong consideration in the evaluation of nominees for the award, significant scholarly contributions made in academic settings, creative judicial or legislative initiatives undertaken to advance the professionalism of lawyers, and other related types of contributions may justify submission of nominations.

Application Procedures:

1. All entrants must submit a completed **Nomination Form**, including attachments. In the case of videotapes, only one tape must be included.
2. Applications must be typewritten.
3. There is no minimum or maximum page length. However, a brief summary page should accompany submissions of moderate or great length.
4. All award entries must be received **on or before June 1**.
5. All entries should be addressed to:
The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
ATTN: Professionalism Award
901 Corporate Center Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607
6. In July, the Professionalism Award Committee will review all nominations and select the recipient. The recipient will be informed of his/her/its selection not later than early August.
7. The Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court will present the award in January of the following year at the Joint Dinner of the North Carolina State Bar and the North Carolina Bar Association.

8. Any questions about this award should be directed to the Executive Director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism at the above address or at (919) 890-1455.

Criteria for Evaluation:

Individuals:

1. Overall quality of performance in profession.
2. *Pro bono* service.
3. Community service.
4. Service to local, state or national bar associations.
5. Demonstrated respect toward judges, legal scholars, professors, and other lawyers.
6. Demonstrated respect toward clients, family, and friends.
7. Involvement with charitable, religious, civic and volunteer activities.
8. Contributions to legal publications.

Programs:

1. Overall quality of the program.
2. Ability to replicate the program by other interested groups throughout the state.
3. Likelihood of continuation of the program.
4. Success of the program.
5. Number of attorneys directly and indirectly involved or affected.
6. Uniqueness, creativity, or other distinguishing or particularly meritorious features of the program.
7. Substantive strength of the program in the area of lawyer professionalism.
8. Scope of the program.
9. Other distinguishing and/or particularly meritorious features of the program.

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Nomination Form

Nominee:

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Firm/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail _____

Reason for Nomination: On a separate page, in a few concise typewritten paragraphs, describe the accomplishments, contributions and/or initiatives of the nominee in the area of professionalism, indicating the significance of their impact.

Nominator:

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail _____

Supporting documents, such as reports or articles evidencing the nominee's contributions, or a resume of the nominee's history of involvement in the field of Professionalism may be submitted in support of your nominations.

Any such submissions of moderate or great length must be accompanied by a brief summary for the reviewing convenience of the Selection Committee. These materials will not be returned.

This form, the explanation of your recommendation, and all supporting documents must be received by mail **not later than June 1.**

SEND TO:

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

ATTN: Professionalism Award

901 Corporate Center Drive

Raleigh, NC 27607

Please note that **no FAX** submissions will be accepted.