

Awards Committee

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Jurisdiction: Support the nomination process for and recommend recipients of awards made in the name of the State Bar of Michigan, by:

- Assisting in the management of the timetable for soliciting, reviewing, and recommending award nominations
- Providing input on effective solicitation of awards to ensure a high-quality pool of diverse nominees
- Providing recommendations on the establishment of new awards or discontinuation of existing awards
- Offering guidance on how best to honor awardees and create an inspiring and accessible online archive of award recipients

Time Frame	Strategic Plan Goal/Strategy	Description of Activity
5/19-9/19	1.4	Committee members seek high quality nominations for SBM awards from other members and bar associations. For the October 1, 2018 and ends at the 2019 Inaugural & Awards Luncheon at the end of September in 2019, where the awards will be handed out, were 22 nominations to consider. The committee recommended eight award recipients.
	2.5	Liberty Bell nominations were received. Local and special purpose bar associations send their local Liberty Bell Award winners on to the State Bar for consideration. Most of these bar associations present their Liberty Bell Awards on Law Day, on or around May 1 each year. The deadline for them to nominate winners is May 2019. The committee recommended awarding the Urban League of West Michigan to the Board for the 2019.
		In the last year's cycle, commencing at the 2019 Inaugural & Awards Luncheon the Committee gave out awards to eight Michigan attorneys and the Liberty Bell Award to one non-attorney or association. 2019 Award Winners: Roberts P. Hudson Award: Lawrence P. Nolan; Frank J. Kelley Award: Michael J. Talbot; Champion of Justice Award: Julie A. Gafkay, Robert F. Gillett, Marla R. McCowan; Kimberly M. Cahill Award: Michael J. Sullivan; John Reed Award: Professor Lawrence C. Mann, Professor Suellyn Scarnecchia; Liberty Bell Award: Urban League of West Michigan, Grand Rapids County Bar Association
	2.4	Committee members review nominations submitted by other attorneys, as well as local and special purpose bar associations, and decide which nominees to recommend become award recipients. When doing so, they are always very aware of the importance of diversity and inclusion among award winners, and whenever possible they strive to grant awards to diverse nominees.
10/19-5/20	1.4	Committee members seek high quality nominations for SBM awards from other members and bar associations. For the coming year's awards cycle, which started October. 1, 2019, and

		ends at the 2020 Inaugural & Awards Luncheon at the end of September in 2020, where the awards will be handed out, there are 18 nominations to consider. Of these nominations, the committee recommended award recipients to the board.
	2.5	Liberty Bell nominations have not yet been received. Local and special purpose bar associations send their local Liberty Bell Award winners on to the State Bar for consideration. Most of these bar associations present their Liberty Bell Awards on Law Day, on or around May 1 each year. The deadline for them to nominate winners is May 8, 2020. Goal 2: Strategy 5: Expanding collaboration with professional organizations and communities outside of the legal community
		2020 Award Winners: Roberts P. Hudson Award: Barry L. Howard; Frank J. Kelley Award: Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award: Ronald J. Frantz and Anita L. Hitchcock; Champion of Justice Award: Thomas P. Boyd, Hon. Susan L. Dobrich and James H. Fisher; Kimberly M. Cahill Award: ATJ Mid-Northern Michigan Expungement Project; John Reed Award: Prof. Paul D. Reingold; Liberty Bell Award: Timothy Skubick, Ingham County Bar Association
	2.4 (?)	Committee members review nominations submitted by other attorneys, as well as local and special purpose bar associations, and decide which nominees to recommend become award recipients. When doing so, they are always very aware of the importance of diversity and inclusion among award winners, and whenever possible they strive to grant awards to diverse nominees.
Current Projects	n/a	n/a
Future Goals	1.4/2.4	The committee members work very hard every year to seek out nominations and ensure that they are submitted by the nomination deadlines. An important goal of this committee is to also make sure that the quality of the award recipients is always outstanding and that the winners represent diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. The committee will continue to work to achieve these goals into the future.

Recommended Committee Changes: None.

Additional Comments: None.