

2026 Oregon State Bar Awards

This year's recipients will be honored at the *Celebrate Oregon Lawyers* event on October 27th in Portland. Please help us honor our most outstanding lawyers, judges and citizens by nominating your deserving colleagues for these awards.

AWARD OF MERIT:

This is the highest honor that the bar can bestow. The recipient may be: 1) an Oregon lawyer who has made outstanding contributions to the bench, the bar and the community-at-large, and who exhibits the highest standards of professionalism; or 2) a former lawyer or non-lawyer who has made outstanding contributions to the bar and/or bench and who exhibits the highest standards of service to the community-at-large. The award does not have to be granted every year, and only one award may be bestowed in any year.

WALLACE P. CARSON, JR. AWARD FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE:

This award honors a member of the state's judiciary. The criteria are: 1) a current or retired state court judge or federal judge; 2) who has made significant contributions to the judicial system; and 3) who is a model of professionalism, integrity and judicial independence.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS:

Nominations are accepted in five categories: Diversity & Inclusion, Service to the Profession, Public Service, Public Leadership, and Innovation. The Board of Governors seeks to honor innovative, hard-working individuals who stand out for their special contributions to the legal profession.

Diversity & Inclusion Award criteria: The nominee must be a member of the bar or an entity that fulfills the criteria for this award; the nominee must have made a significant contribution to the goal of increasing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession through progressive employment efforts, innovative recruitment and retention programs, advocacy or other significant efforts.

Service to the Profession Award criteria: The nominee must be a member of the bar or an entity that fulfills the criteria for this award; the nominee must have made a significant contribution to other lawyers through efforts involving Continuing Legal Education programs or publications, committees, sections, boards or the Bar's legislative/public affairs process or similar activities through local bar associations or other law-related groups.

Public Service Award Criteria: The nominee must be a member of the bar or an entity that fulfills the criteria for this award; the nominee must have made a significant contribution to the public through efforts involving pro bono services; coordination of local public service law-related events, such as those associated with Law Day; service with community boards or organizations or similar activities that benefit the public.

Public Leadership Award Criteria: The nominee must not be a lawyer or a member of the bar; and the nominee must have made significant contributions in any of the areas described in the President's Awards within this policy.

Innovation Award Criteria: The nominee may be a member of the bar or an entity that fulfills the criteria for this award; the nominee must have made a significant innovative contribution that advances the bar's mission and values, including, but not limited to, promoting access to justice, sustainability, or well-being in the legal profession.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES: To ensure full consideration of the nominee's contributions, your nomination packet should include:

1. Award Nomination form: Fill in all requested information and specify the award category. A letter can be substituted if it includes the same information.
2. Supporting Detail: The thoroughness of this information can make the difference in the selection process. Supporting detail may include résumé information, narratives describing significant contributions and special qualifications, a list of references with phone numbers, letters of recommendation, articles, etc.
3. Submitting Nominations: Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 2026. Electronic submissions are preferred and should be sent to celebratelawyers@osbar.org. Printed nominations should be mailed to: Oregon State Bar, Attn: Awards, P.O. Box 231935, Tigard, OR 97281-1935. For further assistance, contact Cathy Petrecca via email or at 503.431.6355 or 800.452.8260, ext. 355.

SELECTION PROCESS: Nominations will be reviewed by the OSB Board of Governors Awards committee. The committee will recommend recipients to the full Board.

