

2019 Oregon State Bar Awards

The Oregon State Bar is seeking nominations for its annual awards. The Oregon State Bar presents the Award of Merit, President's Awards, and the Wallace P. Carson, Jr. Award for Judicial Excellence. The Oregon Bench and Bar Commission on Professionalism presents the Edwin J. Peterson Award. Please help us honor our most outstanding lawyers, judges and citizens by nominating your deserving colleagues for these awards.

Award of Merit

The Award of Merit 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 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

The Wallace P. Carson, Jr. Award for Judicial Excellence honors a member of the state's judiciary. The criteria for the award are as follows: 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

President's Awards are presented in five categories: Diversity & Inclusion Membership Service, Public Service, Public Leadership and Sustainability. The Board of Governors wants to honor innovative, hard-working individuals who stand out because of their special contributions to the legal profession.

Diversity & Inclusion Award Criteria: The nominee must be an active or emeritus member of the Oregon State Bar, or an Oregon law firm; the nominee must have made recent significant contributions to the goal of increasing minority representation in the legal profession in Oregon through creative employment efforts, innovative recruitment and retention programs, advocacy or other significant efforts.

Membership Service Award Criteria: The nominee must have volunteered for the activity involved; must be an active or emeritus member of the Oregon State Bar; and must have made significant contributions to other lawyers through recent efforts in one or more of the following areas: OSB CLE programs or publications; OSB committees, sections, task forces, boards and other bar groups; the OSB legislative/ public affairs process; or similar activities through local bar associations or other law-related groups.

Public Service Award Criteria: The nominee must have volunteered for the activity involved; must be an active or emeritus member of the Oregon State Bar; and must have made significant contributions to the public through recent efforts in one or more of the following areas: pro bono legal service to individuals or groups, law-related public education, coordination of public service law-related events (such as those associated with Law Day), service with community boards or organizations, or similar activities which benefit the public.

Public Leadership Award Criteria: The President's Public Leadership Award is given to someone who is not a member of the Oregon State Bar. The nominee must have made significant contributions in any of the areas covered by the president's awards to bar members.

Sustainability Award Criteria: The nominee must be an active or inactive member of the bar or be an Oregon law firm; the nominee must have made a significant contribution to the goal of sustainability in the legal profession in Oregon through education, advocacy, leadership in adopting sustainable business practices or other significant efforts.

President's Technology & Innovation Award: The nominee may be an individual or entity; the nominee must have made a significant contribution in Oregon toward promoting respect for the rule of law, improving the quality of legal services or increasing access to justice through new technology or other innovations.

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 desired 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 resume 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 Tuesday, June 11, 2019. Electronic submissions are preferred and should be sent to kpulju@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 Kay via email or at (503) 431-6402 or 800-452-8260, ext. 402.

Selection Process

Nominations for the OSB awards will be reviewed by the Board of Governors Member Services Committee. The committee will recommend recipients to the Board of Governors. The Oregon Bench and Bar Commission on Professionalism will select the Edwin J. Peterson Award recipient.

Annual Awards Event

Award recipients will be honored at a luncheon on Wednesday, November 15, 2019 at The Sentinel Hotel in Portland.

