

225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 770  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
571-319-4703 Fax: 703-684-3607  
[www.innsofcourt.org](http://www.innsofcourt.org)

**REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS**  
**FOR THE**  
**TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL AMERICAN INNS OF COURT PROFESSIONALISM**  
**AWARD**  
**IN THE SECOND CIRCUIT**

The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the American Inns of Court announce the solicitation of nominations for the **Twenty-Fifth Annual American Inns of Court Professionalism Award in the Second Circuit**. Chief Judge Debra Ann Livingston of the Second Circuit hopes to be able to present the Award in **New York at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, Courtroom 1703, 40 Foley Square**, in Fall 2026.

The person chosen for this honor is a quintessential mentor who embodies the fundamental values of the profession to which the American Inns of Court is dedicated. The honoree is a senior lawyer who for a generation or more has guided younger practitioners in government, private practice, or public service, by word and by example. He or she is a “lawyer’s lawyer”—a master of the craft—whose life and work reflect civility, competence, and ethical behavior. In short, we seek nominations of first-rate attorneys who have taught, supervised, and nurtured developing lawyers; and who, in doing so, have assured that the finest traditions of the Bar will be sustained.

Nominees should (1) have engaged in the practice of law for at least twenty years, (2) be serving now as a lawyer in Connecticut, New York, or Vermont, and (3) occupy a senior position in the office of a prosecutor, defender, government agency, private law firm, or other private entity. Judges and full-time professors are not eligible.

Nominations should be in letter form and include sufficient information about the nominee to allow the committee to make a reasoned judgment. Additional letters of recommendation should be included in the package, such as by younger lawyers describing their associations with the nominee and the benefits conferred by the nominee’s teaching, mentorship, and example.

Nominations must be submitted no later than **April 10, 2026**, through the American Inns of Court Foundation online portal at [www.innsofcourt.org/ProfessionalismAwards](http://www.innsofcourt.org/ProfessionalismAwards); copies of the nominations must also be e-mailed as a single PDF to Michael D. Jordan, Circuit Executive, at [AIC\\_Award@ca2.uscourts.gov](mailto:AIC_Award@ca2.uscourts.gov). Nominations should be addressed to the attention of Hon. Carl E. Stewart, Chair of the American Inns of Court Awards Committee.

For more information, go to [www.innsofcourt.org/ProfessionalismAwards](http://www.innsofcourt.org/ProfessionalismAwards) or contact Cindy Dennis at (571) 319-4703.

The honoree will be selected by a combined committee of the Second Circuit and the American Inns of Court.

Second Circuit Committee members will be:

**Hon. Eunice C. Lee, U.S. Court of Appeals, Chair**  
**Hon. Sarah A. L. Merriam, U.S. Court of Appeals**  
**Hon. Naomi Reice Buchwald, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York**  
**Hon. Ramón E. Reyes, Jr., U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York**

American Inns of Court members will be:

**Hon. Carl E. Stewart, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Chair**  
**Kim J. Askew, Esquire, formerly with DLA Piper LLP**  
**Hon. J. Michelle Childs, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit**  
**Hon. Denny Chin, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit**  
**Hon. Kent A. Jordan, Retired Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit**  
**Hon. William C. Koch, Jr., Former Justice, Tennessee Supreme Court and  
Dean, Nashville School of Law**  
**Hon. Cheryl A. Krause, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit**  
**Thomas C. Leighton, Thomson Reuters Legal**  
**Hon. Barbara M.G. Lynn, Retired Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern  
District of Texas**  
**Hon. Collins J. Seitz, Jr., Chief Justice, Delaware Supreme Court**

## Second Circuit Recipients

---

- 2025** **Vilia B. Hayes, Esquire**  
*Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP—New York, New York*
- 2024** **Alan Vinegrad, Esquire**  
*Covington & Burling LLP—New York, New York*
- 2023** **Terrence M. Connors, Esquire**  
*Connors LLP—Buffalo, New York*
- 2022** **Michael Kennedy, Esquire**  
*Vermont Bar Counsel—Williston, Vermont*
- 2021** **Susan G. Kellman, Esquire**  
*Law Offices of Susan G. Kellman and Associates—Brooklyn, New York*
- 2020** **Steven M. Edwards, Esquire**  
*Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP—New York, New York*  
**James I. Glasser, Esquire**  
*Wiggin and Dana LLP—New Haven, Connecticut*
- 2019** **Zachary W. Carter, Esquire**  
*Chief Legal Officer of the City of New York—New York, New York*

- 2018 Susan E. Farley, Esquire**  
*Heslin, Rothenberg, Farley & Mesiti, P.C.—Albany, New York*
- 2017 Peter Enrique Quijano, Esquire**  
*Quijano & Ennis, P.C.—New York, New York*
- 2016 Peter G. Eikenberry, Esquire**  
*Law Office of Peter G. Eikenberry—New York, New York*
- 2015 Bettina B. Plevan, Esquire**  
*Proskauer Rose, LLP—New York, New York*
- Lee S. Richards III, Esquire**  
*Richards Kibbe & Orbe, LLP—New York, New York*
- 2014 Patricia M. Hynes, Esquire**  
*Allen & Overy, LLP—New York, New York*
- 2013 Doreen A. Simmons, Esquire**  
*Hancock Estabrook, LLP—Syracuse, New York*
- Roger L. Zissu, Esquire**  
*Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu, P.C.—New York, New York*
- 2012 Hon. Barbara D. Underwood**  
*New York Solicitor General—New York, New York*
- 2011 Marilyn C. Kunstler, Esquire**  
*Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP—New York, New York*
- Sharon M. Porcellio, Esquire**  
*Ward Greenberg Heller & Reidy LLP—Rochester, New York*
- Guy Miller Struve, Esquire**  
*Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP—New York, New York*
- 2010 Alan G. Krams, Esquire**  
*The City of New York Law Department—New York, New York*
- 2009 John Sand Siffert, Esquire**  
*Lankler Siffert & Wohl LLP—New York, New York*
- 2008 Anthony L. Ricco, Esquire**  
*New York, New York*
- 2007 John C. Yavis, Jr., Esquire**  
*Murtha Cullina LLP—Hartford, Connecticut*
- 2006 John B. Webber, Esquire**  
*Webber, Chapman & Kupferer, Ltd.—Rutland, Vermont*
- 2005 Henry Putzel III, Esquire**  
*Law Office of Henry Putzel III—New York, New York*
- 2004 Thomas J. Concannon, Esquire**  
*The Legal Aid Society for the Eastern District of New York—Brooklyn, New York*
- 2003 Gerald Walpin, Esquire**  
*Rosenman & Colin LLP—New York, New York*
- 2002 Marcia B. Paul, Esquire**  
*Kay & Boose LLP—New York, New York*