THE AWARD

The SOC Meritorious Service Award was established in 1994 to highlight the diversity and breadth of Section, Division, and Forum programs and activities and to celebrate the important contributions that these entities make to the life and work of the profession, and in particular, to the work of the American Bar Association. The activities of the Sections, Divisions, and Forums are both national and international in scope, far-reaching in their impact upon the law and the profession, and cutting-edge in terms of providing support and assistance to lawyers in their everyday practice. Practice management tools, publications, technical assistance, and legal education opportunities are other by-products of the innumerable services provided by the Sections, Divisions, and Forums to advance the profession. The SOC Meritorious Service Award both recognizes and celebrates these often groundbreaking and epochal activities. We are pleased to announce the opening of the 2018 competition!

The Award will be given to the Section, Division, or Forum that has sponsored a program, project, or other initiative that is of extraordinary benefit to the profession, the public, and/or the Association. The selection will be made on the basis of one program or project, or a series of closely-related programs or projects, sponsored by a Section, Division, or Forum. Joint programs or projects will also be considered.

THE NOMINATION

Projects or programs initiated or implemented during FY2018 will be considered. Any member of the SOC (i.e., Section, Division, or Forum officer) is eligible to submit nominations. The submission deadline is Friday, June 29, 2018 at 6:00 pm EDT (5:00 pm CDT, 4:00 pm MDT, 3:00 pm PDT). Your nomination should state:

- The name, title, and entity of the person making the nomination.
- The Section, Division, or Forum nominated.
- The specific program, project, or initiative nominated.
- A description of the value or importance to the public, the profession, and/or the Association of such program, project, or initiative.
Please email original submissions to Denise Dempsey at Denise.Dempsey@americanbar.org.

You are invited and encouraged to include brochures, articles, photographs, or any other supporting documentation with your nomination. If you are submitting hard copy materials, please send **seven copies** to:

Denise Dempsey  
Director, Section Officers Conference  
American Bar Association  
321 N. Clark Street  
Floor 18  
Chicago, IL  60654

**THE COMMITTEE**

The 2018 Awards Committee is chaired by Hon. Bernice B. Donald, Former Chair of the Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice. Committee members include: Carolyn Dubay, Lawyers Conference/Judicial Division; Gary Gassman, Section of Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice; Franchesca Lynette Hamilton-Acker, Section of Litigation; Barbara Mendel Mayden, Business Law Section.

We look forward to receiving all of the great submissions reflecting the plethora of Section, Division, and Forum activities!

If you have questions, please contact Denise Dempsey at Denise.Dempsey@americanbar.org.

**THE PRESENTATION**

The SOC Meritorious Award will be presented at the SOC Business Meeting on Friday, August 3, 2018 at the ABA Annual Meeting.

**PAST RECIPIENTS**

A list of past recipients of the SOC Meritorious Service Award can be found at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/leadership/section_officers_conference/awards.html