



THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
***2010 President's Pro Bono Service Awards***

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**AWARD GUIDELINES**  
**DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2010**

The President's Pro Bono Service Awards were established in 1983 by the State Bar Board of Governors to recognize California attorneys who provided or enabled the direct provision of legal services to poor persons or to organizations whose primary purpose is to provide legal services to the poor, free-of-charge, without expectation of compensation from the client. Please note that in November 2009, the awards categories were revised. A nominee may be a lawyer, law firm, team of lawyers, association of lawyers, law school or law student. Nominators may make more than one nomination for an award; however a separate submission is required for each nomination. Self-nominations are accepted. Repeat nominations also are accepted with updated information for calendar year 2009. **This year, nominations will only be accepted electronically.** An electronic version of the [nomination form](#) is available on the State Bar's web site.

**AWARD CATEGORIES**

*Please note that no more than a total of nine (9) awards may be given in all of the five categories combined.  
The number of awards in a particular category may vary from year to year.*

**1. Individual**

- **Solo Practitioner:** attorney in his or her own practice
- **Recently Admitted:** attorney is in his or her first four years of practice (please note that this definition is different from that used for the [Jack Berman Award of Achievement](#) sponsored by the California Young Lawyers Association)
- **Limited Active Practice:** attorney enrolled in the [State Bar's Pro Bono Practice Program](#), or who took time off from practicing law for compensation and performed substantial pro bono work
- **Law Firm:** attorney from a firm with two or more California attorneys
- **Government:** attorney employed by a city, county, state or federal government agency
- **Corporate:** attorney employed by a corporation
- **Law School Faculty Member:** pro bono service was contributed by an attorney outside the scope of his or her employment with the law school
- **Law Student:** currently enrolled in a law school accredited by the [American Bar Association](#) or [State Bar of California](#) and did not receive any form of compensation, clinical or other academic credit for pro bono work, and the work was not public service

**2. Law Firm:** A firm of two or more attorneys, a California branch office of a law firm, or team of lawyers employed by the firm. (Please note that this category now includes all law firm sizes. If you are nominating a firm with multiple branches, please indicate whether you are nominating the entire firm, or just one branch office.)

**3. Corporate or Government Legal Department:** Entire legal department or team of lawyers employed by a corporation or city, county, state or federal government agency.

**4. Law School:** A law school accredited by the [American Bar Association](#) or [State Bar of California](#), project of the law school, team of law students, or partnership of law students and other segments of the legal community.

**5. Distinguished Pro Bono Service:** Pro bono effort that is innovative, collaborative, and/or went "above and beyond the call of duty" and is deserving of special recognition.

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Award recipients must either be:

- A. Lawyers who provided pro bono legal services from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 and:
1. are members of the State Bar of California;
  2. were not employed on a full-time basis, during the period when the pro bono work was done, by an organization that has as its primary purpose the provision of free legal services to the poor (as defined by current federal poverty guidelines) unless the legal services staff attorney provided the pro bono work outside the scope of his/her employment;
  3. have voluntarily contributed a significant amount of time, with no expectation of being paid by the client or receiving attorneys' fees (unless they have agreed in advance to donate all fees received) to providing or enabling the delivery of legal services in civil or criminal matters for a client, client group or charitable organization (whose primary purpose is to provide services to the poor and that does not have the resources to pay for services);
  4. have made such contribution independently or preferably through organized pro bono programs, including legal services programs, legal aid societies, local bar association-sponsored pro bono programs, lawyer referral services' no fee panels or other organizations whose primary purpose is to serve the poor; and
  5. whose voluntary contributions have resulted in increased access to legal services for the poor.

OR

- B. Law firms, teams of lawyers, associations of California lawyers, California law schools accredited by the American Bar Association or State Bar of California, and law students currently enrolled in those law schools who did not receive any form of compensation, clinical or other academic credit for doing pro bono work, and the work was not public service (e.g. building houses for Habitat for Humanity, serving meals in a soup kitchen).

*Members of the [Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services \(SCDLS\)](#) are ineligible to receive an award during their service on the committee, and for one year following their departure from the committee.*

## FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

- the breadth and impact of the nominee's work
- the nominee's practice setting
- obstacles or challenges to doing pro bono work (including but not limited to geography)
- pro bono activities of law firms, law schools and government and corporate legal departments in relationship to the size of the entity
- the nature of the pro bono program through which the work was done
- evidence of the nominee's continuing commitment to pro bono work
- the nature of services contributed, such as:
  - direct representation
  - advice and counsel
  - impact litigation
  - co-counseling
  - appellate work
  - pro per assistance
  - mentoring
  - organization of pro bono activities
  - mobilization of others to do pro bono work
  - organization of a new project or delivery service
  - provision of volunteer lawyer training
  - client or public education
  - emergency, difficult or unpopular cases
  - innovative or unique approaches

## NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS, SELECTION PROCESS AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

The [nomination form](#) which is available on the State Bar of California's website and nominee's current résumé or biography with work history and dates are required and must be submitted electronically as a Word document (version 97-2003). Additional supporting material and letters of support may be attached with the nomination form and résumé as PDF files (articles can be submitted via live URL links). All attachments must be itemized in the body of the e-mail message. The limit on additional supporting materials and letters of support is 15 pages.

All nomination materials should be e-mailed to Kimberly Warmsley at [programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov) by **11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on Monday, March 15, 2010**. Include in the subject line "2010 Pro Bono Awards" and the nominee's name. Please do not include more than one nomination per e-mail. If it is a hardship to submit a nomination electronically, please contact Ms. Warmsley at the e-mail address above, or 415-538-2176 about an alternative method for submission. Nominators will receive e-mail notification acknowledging receipt of each nomination. If you do not receive an e-mail acknowledgment within 5 business days, please contact Ms. Warmsley to confirm receipt of submission.

All information requested in Sections A and B of the nomination form must be provided. If more than one entity nominates the same candidate, please submit one joint nomination that includes responses to all questions in Sections A and B by both entities. If information is missing, the nominator may be contacted to complete the nomination, or the nomination may be disqualified. Each nominee will receive notification that she or he has been nominated for an award with copy to the nominator. The State Bar [Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services \(SCDLS\)](#) will review the nominations and submit its recommendations to the State Bar Board of Governors in July for final approval. Decisions regarding award recipients will be based on the criteria and factors listed above. The awards will be presented in September 2010 during the State Bar Annual Meeting in Monterey.