



2022 NYC Bar Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award Criteria and Nomination Form

The annual New York City Bar Association “City Bar” Diversity & Inclusion Champion award honors individuals whose actions and activities, within the legal profession, particularly in New York City, embody the Statement of Diversity Principles. Diversity champions are critical for creating lasting change in organizations and establishing an inclusive work environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should we nominate?

- **Attorneys:** Nominations are limited to attorneys, having graduated from law school no less than 8 years ago, although they need not be actively practicing law.
- **Time period:** While our emphasis is on actions taken within the last year, we recognize that it may be difficult to isolate certain achievements within a calendar year. Notable achievements from the past or that occur on an ongoing basis may be included as well.
- **Level:** It is important to recognize that leaders can be found throughout any organization, and successful diversity efforts empower and cultivate champions at all levels. In addition, we encourage nominations from a range of positions, from diversity professionals to practicing attorneys with no formal, specific diversity title or role.
- **Internal or External:** Nominations can come from within or outside of the organization. Individuals are eligible in connection with their efforts to increase diversity within their own employer as well as outside of the organization, such as bar association initiatives or nonprofit organization.
- **Type of Employer:** Diversity champions can hail from any sector of the legal profession— including, government, firm, corporation, academia, or non-profit. To that end, individuals do not need to be employed by signatories of the statement of diversity principles to be eligible.
- **Number of Nominations:** Individuals and organizations may nominate multiple individuals on separate nomination forms.

When are nominations due? The final day submissions will be accepted is **Wednesday, June 29, 2022.**

Where do I submit my nomination form? Nominations are to be submitted directly to Mary Ellen LaRosa, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, at mellenlarosa@nycbar.org

What is the process for selecting the winners?

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion of the New York City Bar Association has established the criteria listed on the next page. A panel of Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award Committee members representing a cross-section of legal employers will be convened, ensuring that there are no conflicts. Interviews will be conducted with finalists and their references in August and September 2022. The Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award Committee will then contact winners.

Inquiries can be directed to: mellenlarosa@nycbar.org

Key Dates:

Please be advised that finalists and their references are expected to be available for interviews in August/September and to attend the Diversity Champion Award Ceremony on October 6, 2021 to accept the award.

- Nomination submission deadline **(June 29, 2022)**
- Interviews with finalists and references **(August/September 2022)**
- Awards Ceremony **(October 27, 2022)**

Criteria

Overall, this award recognizes individuals who champion the ideals embodied in the New York City Bar Association’s Statement of Diversity Principles—“facilitate diversity in the hiring, retention and promotion of attorneys and in the elevation of attorneys to leadership positions within our respective organizations.” To that end, we will assess a nominee’s excellence in ***one or more*** of the following areas:

1. Influencing Others

Successful diversity efforts have champions who galvanize the importance of diversity at every possible opportunity. Diversity champions can exert influence, not necessarily because of their titles, but by making a persuasive connection between organizational performance and progress on diversity.

2. Being a Role Model

Champions “talk the talk and walk the walk.” It is not just what champions say, it is how they act that signals whether diversity is truly important to the organization. For example, champions can demonstrate that mentoring is valued by personally mentoring someone from a different background. In addition, it is a powerful communication tool when champions discuss openly and honestly how they manage their professional and personal lives.

3. Continually Learning

To be an effective champion, it is important to understand the challenges faced by different groups in the profession. These challenges and the barriers they can present often unintentionally go unnoticed by members of a majority group who have never experienced being an outsider in their profession. A diversity champion regularly reaches out to a diverse array of attorneys to understand first-hand the experiences of someone from a different background.

4. Cultivating Diverse Teams

Whether staffing teams internally or externally, diversity champions seek out diverse talent in its many forms. Diversity champions place a premium on good management, both for themselves and others. They strive to develop and retain their diverse team members, by mentoring, coaching, and providing constructive feedback.

5. Innovating and Taking Risks

In order to make diversity a reality, creative and practical solutions must be identified and implemented. Diversity champions believe change is possible and see opportunities where others see obstacles. For example, a champion could spearhead the creation of an affinity group or a pilot flexible work program in one department in order to assess effectiveness and build the case for broader implementation.

6. Holding Yourself and Others Accountable for Diversity

Accountability is an evolutionary process beginning with systematically making the case that diversity is beneficial to the organization. When individuals are not meaningfully participating, diversity champions are innovative and influential in action. Champions identify ways to foster diversity internally and externally. For example, as clients, champions are purposeful in adopting processes and inquiries that consider diversity efforts and achievements of outside counsel.

7. External Leadership Involvement

On its own or in conjunction with internal activities, diversity champions can take an active role in fostering diversity in the profession. Individuals may take an active role in minority bar associations or in diversity committees in local or national bars. Diversity champions can also forge connections with law schools, colleges, high schools, and other organizations in order to broaden the diversity pipeline. Pro bono activities are another important way in which individuals may have an impact on diversity within the profession and society in general.

Past Awardees

2006 Winners

Hon. Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
William Malpica
Elizabeth D. Moore

2007 Winners

Sharon Bowen
Laurie Robinson
Zakiyyah Salim-Williams
Hon. John Stackhouse

2008 Winners

Michael A. Cardozo
Hon. Juanita Bing Newton
James B. O'Neal

2009 Winners

LaShann DeArcy
Hon. Charles J. Hynes
James R. Silkenat

2010 Winners

George Cheeks & Andra Shapiro
Duane L. Hughes
Marissa C. Wesely

2011 Winners

Sheila S. Boston
Vincent T. Chang
S. Jeanine Conley
Andrew T. Hahn, Sr.

2012 Winners

Steven Banks
Eric J. Friedman
Don H. Liu
Lorraine S. McGowen

2013 Winners

Larry Chanen
Asim Rehman
Alita T. Wingfield

2014 Winners

Joseph Drayton
Natalia Martín & Karla Sanchez
Michelle Anderson

2015 Winners

Kathy Hirata Chin
Hon. Fern Fischer
Darryl Gibbs
Taa Grays

2016 Winners

Conway Ekpo & Joseph Tillman
Dennis C. Hopkins
Hon. Rosalyn Richter

2017 Winners

Ricardo Anzaldua
Hon. Zachary W. Carter
Carmelyn P. Malalis
Richard E. Meade

2018 Winners

Sheila Kearney Davidson
John Mbiti
Susan L. Shin

2019 Winners

Juan Arteaga
Lisa Linsky

2020 Winners

Mylan L. Denerstein
Sandra Leung
Cecilia B. Loving

2021 Winner

Sapna Palla

NEW YORK
CITY BAR

2022 Diversity & Inclusion Champion Award
NOMINATION FORM QUESTIONS

All nominations are to be submitted to mellenlarosa@nycbar.org. When completing the nomination form, please include concrete examples of how the nominated individual embodies each of the criteria. Attach relevant supporting materials, but please do not include other media articles or awards.

Nominated Diversity Champion

Name of Nominated Individual: _____

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

***Optional*

Gender: _____

Race/ethnicity: _____

Sexual Orientation: _____

Disability status: _____

Sponsoring Individual/Organization

Name of Person Submitting Nomination: _____

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

Sector

Public (Choose One)

Academia

Government Organization

Non-Profit

OR

Private (Choose One)

Corporation

Law Firm

Nominations must be submitted by **Wednesday, June 29, 2022.**

Please submit your nomination to mellenlarosa@nycbar.org

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