

2008 State Bar of Georgia *Local Bar Activities Awards*

Guidelines

In order to encourage and support local and circuit bars and their service programs, to promote activities which relate to the improvement of the administration of justice, the objectives of the State Bar of Georgia, and the image of lawyers, the State Bar annually sponsors an awards program which recognizes excellence in local and circuit bar associations. Administered by the Local Bar Activities Committee, awards are presented to winners at the State Bar's Annual Meeting.

Awards are presented for the 2007-08 Bar year which began July 1, 2007, with an exception for the Law Day Award, which may be submitted for events in either 2007 or 2008.

Eligibility and Competition Categories

Each local or circuit bar association recognized by the State Bar is eligible to submit an entry for local and circuit bar awards. The following categories relating to membership size will be used in judging the Award of Merit, Newsletter and Law Day Awards:

- Under 50 members
- 51 to 100 members
- 101 to 250 members
- 251 to 500 members
- Over 500 members

Deadline for Entry

The deadline for entry this year is May 9, 2008.

Form of Entry

Send one copy of your entry to:
State Bar of Georgia
104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303

Entries should be typewritten (double-spaced) on letter paper (8.5 x 11) and limited to 25 pages. Each entry should be accompanied by a letter or statement with the following information:

1. Name
2. Address
3. President of the organization (name, address, telephone)
4. Number of members

5. Amount of dues
6. Person(s) primarily responsible for entry preparation (name address, telephone)

Judges

Members of the Local Bar Activities Committee will serve as judges and select the winners. The judges' decisions on winners are final. The judges may make an award, at their discretion, in one or more of the membership categories.

Award Categories

Award of Merit

Each entry should contain:

1. A summary of the association's general program;
2. One current or recently completed principal activity of the association which relates to the improvement of the administration of justice, service to the public, service to the membership; the image of lawyers, or other similar goals of the State Bar; and
3. Specific activities or improvements in the program of the association during the year. (Exhibits, scrapbooks, or other attachments are encouraged when appropriate.)

Law Day Award

Each entry should include:

1. An outline of the organization's law day activities
2. News clippings, photographs, copies of posters, press releases, etc., from the activities

The President's Cup

The judges will recommend to the Bar president an award of a traveling "President's Cup" to the most outstanding local or circuit bar association from within all membership categories. The State Bar President will have the final decision on this award.

Best New Entry Award

One or more awards will be given to associations entering the Law Day or Award of Merit competitions for the first time within the last four years. This award will be based on excellence of the entry and the judges reserve the right to determine whether the award should be a single award, or one presented in each category, depending primarily upon the degree of new participation. To be eligible for this award, the organization should mark on its cover letter that it has not entered the awards program within the last four years.

Newsletter Award

Bar associations may enter their newsletters in an additional category in the Award of Merit competition. Copies of newsletters, budget and frequency of publication should all be addressed in the entry. Samples of the newsletter should be included with a cover letter noting that the submission is for the newsletter category.

Thomas R. Burnside Jr. Excellence in Bar Leadership Award

This award is given to honor an individual for a lifetime commitment to the legal profession and the justice system in Georgia through dedicated service to a local or circuit bar, practice area bar, or minority bar.

Nominations for the Thomas R. Burnside Jr. Excellence in Bar Leadership Award which meet the following criteria are encouraged:

1. The nominee should have 15 years or more of cumulative association with local, circuit or specialty bar associations (nominating organization);
2. The nominee must have 10 years or more of cumulative service to the nominating organization, which must include, but shall not be limited to: a) an elected leadership position or appointment to a chair of a committee or section in the nominating organization; and b) active participation and support of the programs and public service activities of the nominating organization;
3. The nominee's service to the nominating organization shall have promoted or improved:
 - a) the general reputation of the legal profession in the state of Georgia; and
 - b) the provision of legal services to the community served by the nominating organization.

Preparation Tips

In describing the association's overall activities, the entry may describe bar meetings (programs, guest, social activities), legal aid participation, legal reference services, public information programs, grievance procedures, opposition to illegal activities in the community, involvement with law students, legal education programs, etc.

The judges will be more interested in knowing the beneficiaries of and participants in such programs and the ingenuity shown in projects rather than in the method of entry presentation.

For More Information

Stephanie Wilson, 404-527-8792 or stephaniew@gabar.org



State Bar
of Georgia