



## **YLD Criminal Law Committee 2009-10 Commitment to Justice Award Nominating Guidelines**

*“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”* [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

### **Eligibility and Nominations Period:**

The YLD Criminal Law Committee annually recognizes one young member from both the prosecution and defense communities in recognition of their professional accomplishments and work to improve the criminal justice system as a whole.  
*\*\*Nominations will be accepted from January 15 through March 31, 2010.*

All nominees must:

- (1) be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia;
- (2) be a member of the Young Lawyers Division: (less than 36 years of age, OR have been admitted to practice in his or her first bar within the past 5 years; AND
- (3) not currently be a YLD Criminal Law Committee Chair, Co-Chair, Subcommittee Chair, a member of the Commitment to Justice Awards Subcommittee, or a prior recipient of the CTJ Award.

### **Selection Criteria:**

The nominee should embody the Lawyer’s Creed adopted by the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism<sup>1</sup>. The ideal candidate will possess professionalism, social and community awareness, a high degree of ethics, integrity, fairness, diligence, good judgment, a strong working knowledge of the law and exceptional advocacy skills.

### **Required Information:**

- (1) Nominating Party: Name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- (2) Nominee: Name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- (3) Narrative: Explain how the nominee meets the Selection Criteria provided above, including, specific instances where the nominee’s ethical qualities were evident.

### **Submission of Nominations:**

Please send all nominations to the CTJ Awards Committee Chair:

**Ms. Yolanda Smith-Williams, Esq.**  
The Smith Williams Law Firm  
540 Powder Springs St.: Suite C-16  
Marietta, Georgia 30064  
Phone: (404) 798-9900  
Fax: (404) 601-6199  
Email: [Yolanda@smithwmslaw.com](mailto:Yolanda@smithwmslaw.com)

<sup>1</sup>See [http://www.gabar.org/related\\_organizations/chief\\_justices\\_commission\\_on\\_professionalism/lawyers\\_creed/](http://www.gabar.org/related_organizations/chief_justices_commission_on_professionalism/lawyers_creed/)



### **A LAWYER'S CREED**

To my clients, I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust.

To the opposing parties and their counsel, I offer fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one.

To the courts, and other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I offer respect, candor, and courtesy. I will strive to do honor to the search for justice.

To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship.

To the profession, I offer assistance. I will strive to keep our business a profession and our profession a calling in the spirit of public service.

To the public and our systems of justice, I offer service. I will strive to improve the law and our legal system, to make the law and our legal system available to all, and to seek the common good through the representation of my clients.

