

CALL FOR PRO BONO AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Access to Justice Committee and the Pro Bono Resource Center of the State Bar of Georgia invite nominations for the State Bar of Georgia's Pro Bono Awards.

Each year, the State Bar of Georgia and the Pro Bono Resource Center recognize outstanding contributions of Georgia lawyers to the improvement of the civil legal system and the legal profession through pro bono publico service to those unable to afford the services of a lawyer.

Award nominees are sought for five awards:

- The H. Sol Clark Award
- The William B. Spann Jr. Award
- The ABC Business Law Pro Bono Award
- The Dan Bradley Legal Services Award
- The Cheryl Naja Award

Nominations should be submitted by **Sept. 30, 2026**

THE H. SOL CLARK AWARD

Presented by the Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia and the Pro Bono Resource Center of the State Bar of Georgia

The H. Sol Clark Award is named for former Court of Appeals of Georgia Judge H. Sol Clark of Savannah, who was known as the "father of legal aid in Georgia." The Clark award honors an individual lawyer who has excelled in one or more of a variety of activities which extend legal services to the poor.

H. SOL CLARK AWARD CRITERIA:

(For Individuals) The recipient(s) shall be an attorney admitted to practice in Georgia currently in good standing who has excelled in one or more of the following ways:

- Been instrumental to the delivery of legal services to the poor through the development of a pro bono or access to justice program;
- Contributed significant work toward developing innovative approaches to delivery of legal services through a pro bono or access to justice program;
- Performed significant and meaningful pro bono activity which satisfied unmet needs or extended services to the underserved or expanded access to justice; and/or
- Litigated impactful pro bono cases.

THE WILLIAM B. SPANN JR. AWARD

Presented by the Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia and the Pro Bono Resource Center of the State Bar of Georgia

The Spann Award is given each year either to a local bar association, law firm, nonprofit, government agency or a community organization in Georgia which has developed a pro bono program that has satisfied previously unmet needs or extended services to underserved segments of the population. The award is named for a former president of the American Bar Association and former executive director of the State Bar of Georgia.

WILLIAM B. SPANN, JR. AWARD CRITERIA:

(Bar Association/Community Organization) The recipient(s) shall be a bar association, law firm or community organization affiliated with a Georgia admitted attorney in good standing that has:

- Developed a pro bono program that has satisfied previously unmet needs or extended services to underserved segments of the population;
- Demonstrated an effective mechanism in addressing the civil legal needs of the community;
- Demonstrated a high level of participation and commitment of its members to provision of civil legal services to the poor in the community; and
- Demonstrated community support and participation in the program.

THE A BUSINESS COMMITMENT PRO BONO BUSINESS LAW AWARD

Presented by the Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia and the Pro Bono Resource Center of the State Bar of Georgia

The Pro Bono Business Law Award honors the business law pro bono contributions of an individual lawyer, corporate legal department or law firm to the nonprofit community development sector in Georgia.

THE PRO BONO BUSINESS LAW AWARD CRITERIA:

The recipient(s) shall be a full-time attorney admitted to practice in Georgia currently in good standing or a law firm or corporate legal department in Georgia. The recipient shall have excelled in one or more of the following ways:

- Demonstrating commitment to the development and delivery of legal services to the poor in a business context through a pro bono program by delivering business law services on a pro bono basis to an existing or emerging nonprofit serving the needs of low-income communities in Georgia or to a microenterprise effort within the low-income community in Georgia; or
- Participating in an activity which results in satisfying previously unmet legal needs of the nonprofit or microenterprise community in a service to low-income Georgians or in extending services to underserved segments of the population outside the metro-Atlanta area.

THE DAN BRADLEY AWARD

Presented by The Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia

The Dan Bradley Award honors the commitment to the delivery of quality legal services of a lawyer of Georgia Legal Services Program or the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. The award honors the memory of Georgia native and Mercer Law graduate Dan J. Bradley, who was president of the federal Legal Services Corporation.

THE DAN BRADLEY AWARD CRITERIA:

The recipient shall be a full-time attorney, employed by the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc. (ALAS), or the Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) who has excelled in one or more of the following ways:

- The number or complexity of cases handled;
 - The impact and benefit for the poor;
 - The origination or implementation of innovative ideas, methods, procedures, or administrative work benefiting the smooth, effective, or efficient operation of ALAS or GLSP and the delivery of legal services to the poor;
 - The quality of negotiations, development of the law, or advocacy used to benefit the poor; or
 - A proven commitment to delivery of quality legal services.
- If you would like to nominate an attorney for this award, please reach out to ALAS or GLSP leadership to coordinate the submission of a nomination.

THE CHERYL NAJA AWARD

Presented by The Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia

The Cheryl Naja Award is named for the former Director of Pro Bono & Community Engagement at Alston & Bird LLP in recognition of her many years spent bettering the lives of all Georgians. It is awarded on occasion to an individual other than a lawyer who has gone above and beyond in providing community service and otherwise supporting those in need.

CHERYL NAJA AWARD CRITERIA:

(For Individuals) The recipient shall be a non-attorney employee of a law firm, nonprofit organization, government agency or community organization in Georgia who has uncommonly contributed to our community in ways that could include:

- Developing or supporting programs or services focused on pro bono legal representation or access to justice;
- Participating in exceptionally meaningful community service efforts; or
- Otherwise addressing unmet civil litigation needs for those who cannot afford legal representation.

PRO BONO AWARDS CRITERIA AND DIRECTIONS FOR NOMINATION

Please carefully review the Awards Criteria set out for each award. To ensure completeness of your nomination, it should include:

I. Nominee Information:

Information regarding nominees should include name (contact person for law firms or corporate counsel programs), address, telephone number and email address. Individual candidate's resume or a document which describes the candidate's background and other relevant activities should be included. Information that would be helpful includes descriptive list of significant cases or matters, the number of years practicing law, other public service activities

II. Nomination Narrative:

Using as many pages as necessary, explain how the nominee meets the criteria for the pro bono award. Specify the nature of the contribution and identify those who have benefited. Follow the criteria set out in the description of the appropriate award.

III. Letters of Support:

You should include letters of support from other concerned individuals and organizations that are aware of the candidate's work.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS:

Submit nominations by **Sept. 30, 2026**, at this link or email materials to awards.ga.accesstojustice@gmail.com.

SELECTION PROCESS:

The Committee will review the nominations and select the recipients.
All committee decisions will be final and binding. Award recipients will be notified by late October.