

NLADA's 2025 Beacon of Justice Awards: Sustaining Equal Justice for Families & Communities

NLADA is proud to host the 2025 Beacon of Justice Awards, celebrating law firms that demonstrate a profound commitment to advancing equal justice through innovative and impactful pro bono work. This year's theme, "Sustaining Equal Justice for Families & Communities," highlights efforts to strengthen the legal framework and support systems that uphold families and empower communities across the nation.

About the Beacon of Justice Awards

The Beacon of Justice Awards celebrate the critical contributions of law firms in addressing pressing legal challenges and systemic inequalities. Through innovative pro bono work, honorees have demonstrated how legal advocacy can create meaningful, lasting change for individuals, families, and communities.

Each year, the awards focus on a specific theme reflecting urgent justice issues. Past honorees have been recognized for work in areas such as racial equity, LGBTQ+ rights, immigration justice, and combating systemic disparities.

Application Guidelines:

NLADA invites law firms to showcase their outstanding contributions to advancing equal justice for families and communities. Strong applications will include:

- A comprehensive description of the pro bono project, including objectives, challenges, and measurable impact.
- Examples of significant legal cases, policy initiatives, or systemic reforms undertaken.
- Demonstration of innovative legal approaches that address complex justice issues.

2025 Theme: Sustaining Equal Justice for Families & Communities

This year's theme focuses on legal initiatives that address pressing challenges faced by families and communities, ensuring their long-term stability and resilience. Special emphasis will be placed on:

- **Strengthening Civil Rights Protections:**
Efforts to safeguard the constitutional rights of families and individuals through litigation, policy advocacy, and community legal education.
- **Legal Representation for Families in Crisis:**
Advocacy to prevent family separation and unnecessary incarceration, ensure access to justice in child custody disputes, and support survivors of domestic violence.
- **Community Justice Initiatives:**
Legal efforts aimed at addressing housing insecurity, access to healthcare and education, and preventing discriminatory practices that marginalize communities.
- **Empowering Vulnerable Populations:**
Pro bono work that amplifies the voices of underrepresented groups, advocates for policy reform, and seeks to dismantle systemic barriers to justice.

Contact Information:

Aileen Moffatt, VP External Relations, at a.moffatt@nlada.org

NLADA's 2025 Beacon of Justice Awards: Sustaining Equal Justice for Families & Communities

Application Summary

- In 800 words or less, describe how the law firm's pro bono work focused on legal initiatives that address pressing challenges faced by families and communities, ensuring their long-term stability and resilience. Special emphasis will be placed on: strengthening civil rights protections, legal representation of families in crisis, community justice initiatives and empowering vulnerable populations.
- Attach additional articles or materials (no more than 3) that illustrate the work described in the narrative.
- Provide the primary contact person(s) in your organization that we may contact if we have any questions about your application.
- Identify the number of attorneys in your firm, the total number of pro bono hours your firm provided between January 1 and December 31, 2024 and the total number of pro bono hours devoted to focusing on legal initiatives that address pressing challenges faced by families and communities, ensuring their long-term stability and resilience between January 1 and December 31, 2024.
- Identify if a member of your firm serves on NLADA's Board of Directors.

Why Participate?

The Beacon of Justice Awards offer law firms a unique opportunity to:

- **Gain national recognition for their dedication to advancing justice.**
- **Highlight the transformative impact of their pro bono work.**
- **Inspire other legal professionals to contribute to the ongoing fight for equal justice.**
- **Support NLADA's mission of ensuring access to justice for all.**



Scan here to view
video presentation
from the 2024 Gala

Submission Deadline: All applications must be submitted by March 14.

Award Presentation: The 2025 Beacon of Justice Awards will be presented at the **NLADA Exemplar Awards Gala on Thursday, June 12 in Washington, D.C.** This premier event celebrates the legal community's role in championing equal justice and brings together legal advocates, policymakers, and community leaders for an evening of inspiration and recognition.