

BAR ASSOCIATION OF ERIE COUNTY
ANNUAL AWARDS
PRESENTED TO ATTORNEYS/JUDGES
ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM



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OF ERIE COUNTY

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LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD



BAR ASSOCIATION
OF ERIE COUNTY

LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Lawyer of the Year award is presented annually to recognize outstanding service and dedication to the legal profession and the Bar Association of Erie County which:

- Promotes the good will of the profession.
- Fosters respect for the legal profession.
- Elevates the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession.
- Encourages the spirit of fellowship among members of the Bar.
- Protects and promotes the interests of the people and the members of the bar, the legal profession and the administration of justice.
- Promotes the maintenance and protection of American institutions and principles.

Lawyer of the Year Award Past Recipients:

1965	George Wanamaker	1997	Victor T. Fuzak
1966	John Lesswing	1998	James L. Magavern
1967	William H. Gage	1999	Grace Marie Ange
1968	Hon. Carlton A. Fisher	2000	Paul Michael Hassett
1969	Chester A. Pearlman	2001	Paul W. Beltz
1970	Eugene M. Downey	2002	David R. Pfalzgraf
1971	Howard Starrett (<i>posthumously</i>)	2003	Lawrence J. Wagner
1972	Samuel Battaglia	2004	Joel L. Daniels
1973	John Leach	2005	John H. Napier
1974	Philip H. Magner, Jr.	2006	Courtland R. LaVallee
1975	M. Robert Koren	2007	Jeffrey M. Freedman
1976	Joseph P. Runfola	2008	Francis X. Carroll
1977	Aaron Weinstein	2009	David Gerald Jay
1978	William B. Mahoney	2010	Terrence M. Connors
1979	Adelbert Fleischmann	2011	Gayle L. Eagan
1980	Edmund S. Brown, Sr.	2012	Vincent E. Doyle III
1981	Stanley G. Falk	2013	Helen Ferraro-Zaffram
1982	Hon. Walter J. Mahoney (<i>posthumously</i>)	2014	Diane F. Bosse
1983	Frank G. Raichle, Jr.	2015	Joseph M. Hanna
1984	J. Eugene McMahan	2016	John R. Nucherenno (<i>posthumously</i>)
1985	Philip J. O'Shea, Sr. (<i>posthumously</i>)	2017	Kenneth A. Manning
1986	Howard T. Saperston	2018	Karen L. Nicolson
1987	Maryann Saccomando Freedman	2019	Melinda G. Disare
1988	John T. Frizzell	2020	John V. Elmore
1989	Charles H. Dougherty	2021	Robert M. Elardo
1990	Hon. Norman Stiller	2022	Hon. Trini E. Ross
1991	Robert D. Fernbach	2023	Michele A. Brown
1992	William R. Brennan	2024	Kevin W. Spitler
1993	Joseph D. Birmingham, Jr.	2025	Cheryl Meyers-Buth
1994	Daniel T. Roach		
1995	John W. Condon, Jr.		
1996	Richard N. Blewett		

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THE JOHN T. CURTIN PROFILES IN COURAGE AWARD



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THE JOHN T. CURTIN PROFILES IN COURAGE AWARD

The John T. Curtin Profiles in Courage award recognizes the “truly historic tenure” of Hon. John T. Curtin. This award was created to recognize a distinguished practitioner who exemplifies the same “moral courage and sense of justice that Judge Curtin brought to the bench every day.”

Judge Curtin’s contributions to the Western District of New York were innumerable and significant throughout his 49-year career. In 1976, Judge Curtin ruled on the case *Arthur v. Nyquist*, which involved the integration of the Buffalo Public School District. Judge Curtin’s ruled that schools were “deliberately segregated” and that they would need to begin desegregation efforts immediately. In addition, Judge Curtin presided over The Buffalo Five trial involving the arrest of five individuals arrested for their break-in to Buffalo’s Old Post Office in an attempt in 1971 to burn draft records. He also presided over the historic Love Canal Trial.

During his tenure on the federal bench, Judge Curtin served as the District’s Second Circuit Representative to the Judicial Conference of the United States. He was also a member of the Second Circuit Task Force on Gender, Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. Judge Curtin continued with a busy case load from 1989 until he assumed inactive senior status almost 27 years later on April 12, 2016 at the age of 94. His commitment to his work made a significant difference to the WDNY as he worked to reduce the volume of social security cases and other cases that may have been delayed in the system due to the case load of the district.

The John T. Curtin Profiles in Courage Award Past Recipients:

2017	Hon. John T. Curtin (<i>posthumously</i>)
2018	James P. Harrington
2019	Maryann Saccomando Freedman
2020	Herbert L. Greenman
2021	Hon. Hugh B. Scott (<i>posthumously</i>)
2022	Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee
2023	Hon. Susan M. Eagan
2024	Bernadette “Bernie” Hoppe (<i>posthumously</i>)
2025	Hon. Lawrence J. Vilardo

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OUTSTANDING JURIST AWARD



BAR ASSOCIATION
OF ERIE COUNTY

OUTSTANDING JURIST AWARD

The Outstanding Jurist award is not presented annually but when there exists a jurist whose career exemplifies the highest standards of judicial conduct for integrity, impartiality and independence; who is knowledgeable of the law and faithful to it; who is not influenced by partisan interests, public clamor or fear of criticism; who is patient, dignified and courteous to all who appear before him or her; and who endeavors to improve the administration of justice and respect for the rule of law.

Outstanding Jurist Award Past Recipients:

1976	Hon. Carmen F. Ball	2003	N/A
	Hon. Norman A. Stiller	2004	Hon. John P. Lane
1977	Hon. John T. Curtin	2005	Hon. John T. Elfvin
1978	N/A	2006	Hon. Eugene F. Pigott, Jr.
1979	Hon. H. Buswell Roberts	2007	Hon. Michael F. Griffith
1980	Hon. James B. Kane	2008	Hon. Rose H. Sconiers
1981	N/A	2009	Hon. Joseph D. Mintz
1982	N/A	2010	Hon. Thomas P. Franczyk
1983	Hon. Norman J. Wolf, Jr.	2011	Hon. Kevin M. Dillon
1984	N/A	2012	Hon. Thomas P. Amodeo
1985	Hon. John T. Curtin	2013	Hon. William M. Skretny
1986	N/A	2014	Hon. Jeremiah J. McCarthy
1987	N/A	2015	Hon. Eugene M. Fahey
1988	Hon. Vincent E. Doyle, Jr.	2016	Hon. Robert T. Russell, Jr.
1989	Hon. Frederick M. Marshall	2017	Hon. Barbara Howe
1990	Hon. Victor E. Manz	2018	Hon. Craig D. Hannah
1991	Hon. Edmund F. Maxwell	2019	Hon. Sharon M. LoVallo
1992	N/A	2020	Hon. Erin M. Peradotto
1993	Hon. M. Dolores Denman	2021	Hon. Paula L. Feroletto
1994	Hon. Henry H. Gossel	2022	Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin
1995	Hon. Samuel L. Green	2023	Hon. Acea M. Mosey
1996	Hon. Richard D. Simons	2024	Hon. Shirley Troutman
1997	Hon. John H. Doerr	2025	Hon. Patrick H. NeMoyer (<i>posthumously</i>)
1998	Hon. Jerome C. Gorski		
1999	Hon. Leo J. Fallon		
2000	N/A		
2001	Hon. Sharon Seide Townsend		
2002	Hon. David J. Mahoney		
	Hon. Joseph P. McCarthy		

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Outstanding Jurist Award Nomination Form

A résumé or similar biographical material for the nominee should accompany this form. This nomination must be submitted by **March 6, 2026**, to:

Awards Committee
Bar Association of Erie County
438 Main Street, Sixth Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202

NOMINEE: _____

TITLE OR POSITION: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ E-MAIL: _____

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: _____

TITLE/AFFILIATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ E-MAIL: _____

In the space provided below, please provide as much supporting information regarding the nominee's qualifications for this award. Please continue on the backside or use additional sheets if necessary.

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AWARD OF MERIT



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AWARD OF MERIT

There is no specific criteria for the Award of Merit which is reserved to recognize extraordinary circumstances.

Award of Merit Past Recipients:

1978	George L. Cownie Dennis Denny
1985	Eugene C. Tenney William J. Cunningham, Jr.
1986	Philip H. Magner, Jr.
1990	David Gerald Jay
1994	Hon. James B. Kane
1995	Edward P. Jesella, Jr.
1996	Thomas H. Burton
1997	Lillian E.G. Cowan
2000	Hon. Jerome C. Gorski Herbert H. Blumberg
2001	Diane F. Bosse
2002	Hon. Michael A. Battle
2003	Hon. Robert T. Russell, Jr.
2004	Albert Mugel (<i>posthumously</i>)
2005	Paul J. Smaldone
2006	no award presented
2007	no award presented
2008	Sharon Stern Gerstman
2009	Robert M. Elardo
2010	Scott A. Bylewski
2011	E.W. Dann Stevens (<i>posthumously</i>)
2012	Howard B. Frank and Mark W. Hamberger
2013	James P. Harrington and Michael S. Taheri
2014	Marianne Mariano
2015	Hon. Frederick J. Marshall
2016	Sharon A. Thomas (<i>posthumously</i>)
2017	Marilyn A. Hochfield
2018	William Mattar
2019	David G. Henry
2020	Hon. Margaret Szczur
2021	Andrew B. Isenberg & Daniel J. Marren
2022	Hugh M. Russ, III
2023	Robert J. Feldman (<i>posthumously</i>)
2024	David A. Shapiro
2025	LGBTQIA+ Committee

BAR ASSOCIATION OF ERIE COUNTY
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SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD



BAR ASSOCIATION
OF ERIE COUNTY

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

The Special Service award is given to a lawyer whose exceptional service to the profession has contributed to the good and welfare of the Bar Association of Erie County and its members.

Special Service Award Past Recipients:

1974	John B. Walsh	1997	Charles H. Dougherty
1978	William P. Bellas	1998	Nancy W. Saia
	Harold J. Brand, Jr.		John P. Freedenberg
	William J. Cunningham, Jr.	1999	Helen Ferraro-Zaffram
	Jack L. Green		Francis X. Carroll
	William R. Kneeland	2000	Robert J. White
	William Levitt		John J. Aman
	Morris Mesch	2001	Michelle A. Crew
	Myra S. Stuart		Susan Etu Eagan
	Richard T. Sullivan	2002	Frank J. Boccio, Chief Clerk <i>Erie County Family Court</i>
1979	Bruce A. Goldstein	2003	Martin J. Violante, Court Attorney Referee <i>Eighth Judicial District</i>
1980	Robert J. Kresse	2004	Karen L. Nicolson
	Peter J. Brevorka	2005	Glenn E. Murray
	Franklin Pack		Richard S. Kweciak
1981	Joseph A. Schime	2006	Sheila Weir Schwanekamp
	<i>Chief Clerk, Surrogate's Court</i>		Dennis Bischof
1982	William H. Gage	2007	Real Property Law Sub-Committee: Michael Lombardo, Kenneth Redding, Nancy Saia, W. Clark Trow
1983	Maryann Saccomando Freedman	2008	Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee
1984	Anne (Nancy) M. Moore	2009	Daniel T. Lukasik
1985	John A. Boccio (<i>posthumously</i>)	2010	Robert H. Lawrence
	David J. Mahoney		John Nuchereno
1986	Susan Ostrowski Beale	2011	not given
	<i>Lawyers Helping Lawyers</i>	2012	William R. Hites and Harry G. Meyer
1987	Harold J. Brand, Jr.	2013	not given
1988	Thomas M. Burke	2014	Julie Loesch
1989	Richard F. Griffin	2015	David L. Sweet
	Oliver C. Young	2016	William W. Berry
1990	Ferdinand J. Ciccarelli	2017	Mark R. McNamara
	Morris Mesch	2018	Roderick Quebral & Gregory T. Miller (<i>posthumously</i>)
	Richard C. Panepinto (<i>posthumously</i>)	2019	Hon. Thomas P. Franczyk
1991	John T. Smythe	2020	Anna Marie Richmond
1992	Daniel F. Novak	2021	Daniel E. Barry, Jr.
1993	Hon. Irving Fudeman (<i>posthumously</i>)	2022	Samantha I.V. White
	Keith A. Morgenheim	2023	Jill K. Bond
	Hon. Elloeen D. Oughterson	2024	Sharon Nosenchuck
1994	Harold J. Boreanaz (<i>posthumously</i>)		Stephanie J. Calhoun
	Sharon Stern Gerstman	2025	Sarah M. Washington
	James A. Locke		
1995	Sanford C. Kulick (<i>posthumously</i>)		
	Lynn A. Clarke		
1996	Linda L. Kaumeyer		
	Hon. James H. Dillon		

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CHARLES H. DOUGHERTY CIVILITY AWARD



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CHARLES H. DOUGHERTY CIVILITY AWARD

The "Civility Award" is presented to a distinguished practitioner who exemplifies the same sense of civility and decorum that characterized the career of the Association's former president, Charles H. Dougherty who was always forthright and scrupulously fair, and elevated the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession.

Civility Award Past Recipients:

2006	John Cegielski (<i>posthumously</i>)
2007	John L. Kirschner and Joseph C. Vispi
2008	Douglas S. Coppola
2009	Richard N. Blewett and Joseph B. Mistrett
2010	John F. Canale
2011	Hon. Hugh B. Scott
2012	Michael J. Roach
2013	Richard F. Griffin and Scott M. Schwartz
2014	Oliver C. Young and Mary Catherine "Katie" Baumgarten
2015	John C. Doscher and James P. Renda
2016	William J. Kita
2017	Nelson F. Zakia
2018	John J. Aman
2019	Kevin D. Robinson
2020	David R. Addelman (<i>posthumously</i>)
2021	Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden
2022	Joel L. Daniels
2023	Hon. David L. Edmunds, Jr.
2024	Kevin D. Walsh
2025	Michael F. Perley

