



Outstanding Young Lawyer Award  
Liberty Bell Award  
Outstanding Mentor Award

**Nomination Rules and Criteria**  
**2021-2022**

We invite you to help honor members of our community. The Houston Young Lawyers Association (“HYLA”) annually presents three prestigious awards:

1. The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, which recognizes one young lawyer in Houston is a member of HYLA and who has demonstrated professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community;
2. The Liberty Bell Award, which recognizes one outstanding non-lawyer in Houston who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice by instilling better understanding and appreciation of the law; and
3. The Outstanding Mentor Award, which recognizes one Houston attorney who has demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers in his or her legal community.

The rules and criteria for these awards are enclosed. Nominations must be received by the committee chair for each award and the **HYLA Executive Director, Lucy Cain by 5:00pm on Thursday, March 31, 2022, email to [hyla@hyla.org](mailto:hyla@hyla.org).**

Kelly Hanen, Chair  
HYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee

Amy Farish and Richard Houghton, Co-Chairs  
HYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee

Adaugo Glenda Duru, Chair  
HYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee

**Please submit nomination packets to the appropriate committee chair and Lucy Cain at [hyla@hyla.org](mailto:hyla@hyla.org). Deadline Thursday, March 31, 2022.**

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Lucy Cain at 281-685-9929 or [lucy\\_cain@hyla.org](mailto:lucy_cain@hyla.org).



## **HYLA OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER AWARD**

### **PURPOSE**

To recognize one young lawyer in Houston who best demonstrates professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the HYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, the nominee must:

- be a current member of the Houston Young Lawyers Association,
- be licensed to practice law in Texas,
- have paid membership dues prescribed by the Supreme Court of Texas,
- be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas,
- be 36 years of age or younger as of June 1, 2021 or
- initially licensed within 60 months prior to June 1, 2021.

**Please note:** Current officers and directors of the Houston Young Lawyers Association, Texas Young Lawyers Association and members of the HYLA and TYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Committees are not eligible for consideration.

### **NOMINATIONS CRITERIA**

The HYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee will consider all outstanding qualities of each nominee in making its recommendation to the HYLA Board of Directors.

Outstanding qualities include but are not limited to exemplified:

- professional proficiency,
- service to the profession, and
- service to the community.

### **NOMINATIONS PROCESS**

Any individual, group of individuals, or other organization may submit a nomination to the HYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee for consideration.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email. The application should include the following:

1. A completed HYLA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award nomination form.
2. A nomination letter from the nominating organization/entity explaining the qualifications of the nominee and setting forth the reasons why the nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.
3. The nominee's biographical resume, including an explanation of the nominee's bar service, employment and professional history, service to the community, and dedication to legal ethics and professional responsibility.
4. Two to five letters of recommendation. Examples include letters from the nominee's clients, individuals familiar with the nominee's service to the community, the nominee's current or former employers, fellow practitioners, individuals familiar

with the nominee's service to the bar, or any other individual who can explain why the nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT**

All nominations will be reviewed by the HYL A Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Committee, which will select a winner for approval by the HYL A Board of Directors on or before April 8, 2022. The award will be presented to the recipient of the HYL A Outstanding Young Lawyer Award at the HYL A/HYL F Law Day Luncheon on Friday, May 6, 2022. The recipient will be an honored guest of HYL A at the event.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** *Thursday, March 31, 2022, 5:00 pm, by email at [Hyla@hyla.org](mailto:Hyla@hyla.org)*



## **HYLA LIBERTY BELL AWARD**

### **PURPOSE**

To recognize one outstanding *non-lawyer* in Houston who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice by instilling better understanding and appreciation of the law.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Any *non-lawyer* is eligible to receive this Award. Judges and lawyers or other members of the State Bar of Texas are not eligible.

### **NOMINATIONS CRITERIA**

The Award recognizes community service that:

- Promotes a better understanding of government, especially the Bill of Rights;
- Encourages greater respect for the law and the courts;
- Stimulates a deeper sense of individual responsibility, so that citizens recognize their duties and their rights;
- Contributes to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and
- Instills better understanding and appreciation of the law.

### **NOMINATIONS PROCESS**

The HYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee will consider all outstanding qualities of each nominee in making its recommendation to the HYLA Board of Directors.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email. The application should include the following:

1. A completed HYLA Liberty Bell Award nomination form submitted by the nominating organization/entity
2. Biographical information about your nominee—e.g. family information; membership/offices held and honors received in civic, church, and other community organizations; and profession or employment
3. A narrative of accomplishments and activities that qualify the nominee for the Award, focusing on the above criteria
4. Two to four letters of recommendation
5. One to four copies of newspaper articles, publications, awards, etc., supporting the nominee's qualifications

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT**

All nominations will be reviewed by the HYLA Liberty Bell Award Committee, which will select a winner for approval by the HYLA Board of Directors on or before April 8, 2022. The award will be presented to the recipient of the HYLA Liberty Bell Award at the HYLA/HYLF Law Day Luncheon on Friday, May 6, 2022. The recipient will be an honored guest of HYLA at the event.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** *Thursday, March 31, 2022, 5:00 pm, by email,*  
*[hyla@hyla.org](mailto:hyla@hyla.org)*



## **HYLA OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD**

### **PURPOSE**

To recognize a Houston attorney who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers in his or her legal community.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the HYLA Outstanding Mentor Award, the nominee must:

- be licensed to practice law in Texas,
- have paid membership dues prescribed by the Supreme Court of Texas,
- be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas.

### **NOMINATIONS CRITERIA**

The HYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee will consider all outstanding qualities of each nominee across the state in making its recommendation to the HYLA Board of Directors. Outstanding Mentor qualities include but are not limited to exemplified:

- serves as a role model to young lawyers in his or her community,
- fosters the development of young lawyers, and
- significantly contributes to the profession and/or the community.

### **NOMINATIONS PROCESS**

The HYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee will consider all outstanding qualities of each nominee in making its recommendation to the HYLA Board of Directors.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Nominations must be submitted as one document by email or fax. The application should include the following:

1. A completed HYLA Outstanding Mentor Award nomination form submitted by an officer of the nominating organization/entity
2. A nomination letter from the nominating organization/entity explaining the qualifications of the nominee and setting forth the reasons why the nominee should be awarded the Outstanding Mentor Award
3. Biographical information
4. Two to four letters of recommendation.
5. One to two copies of newspaper articles, publications, awards, exhibits, etc., supporting the nominee's qualifications

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECIPIENT**

All nominations will be reviewed by the HYLA Outstanding Mentor Award Committee, which will select a winner for approval by the HYLA Board of Directors on or before April 8, 2022. The award will be presented to the recipient of the HYLA Outstanding Mentor Award at the HYLA/HYLF Law Day Luncheon on Friday, May 6, 2022. The recipient will be an honored guest of HYLA at the event.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** *Thursday, March 31, 2022, 5:00 pm, by email*  
*[hyla@hyla.org](mailto:hyla@hyla.org)*