



# NYSBA

2019 DIVERSITY TRAILBLAZER AWARD  
Presented by the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

*Call for Nominations*



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## 2019 Diversity Trailblazer Award

Presented by the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

The New York State Bar Association's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion seeks nominations for the 2019 Diversity Trailblazer Award. The Committee wishes to recognize exceptional efforts of a member of the legal community to promote the full and equal participation of diverse people at all levels of the legal profession.

The nomination form is available online at [www.nysba.org/2019TrailblazerNomForm](http://www.nysba.org/2019TrailblazerNomForm). Nominations will be accepted until Friday, September 28, 2018. Please e-mail a PDF of your completed nomination form and attachments to [mudoko@nysba.org](mailto:mudoko@nysba.org), or fax your completed form and attachments to Minika Udoko at 518-487-5503.

The Diversity Trailblazer Award will be presented prior to the Association's Fourteenth Annual Celebrating Diversity in the Bar Reception, on Monday, January 14, 2019, during the NYSBA Annual Meeting in New York City.

The recipient will receive a recognition award and a complimentary one-year membership in the Association.

### Criteria for the Diversity Trailblazer Award

Each Diversity Trailblazer presents a unique blend of experience (from up-and-coming to lifetime), skills, accomplishments, and other qualities. The Committee will consider the nominee's trailblazing efforts in one or more of the following ways:

1. Promoting inclusive workplaces, seeking to address the unique needs of those from diverse backgrounds, and advocating for equal opportunity for diverse individuals in the legal profession. For example, creating affinity groups, diversity committees, or otherwise increasing opportunities for diverse individuals in the profession, including the judiciary.
2. Supporting and encouraging diverse individuals to reach their professional and personal goals and ensuring opportunities for the advancement of diverse attorneys. For example, serving as a speaker, firm or association leader, or mentor or other participant in one or more pipeline programs.
3. Creating organizational change and establishing an inclusive work environment. For example, fostering leadership development, innovation and knowledge sharing aimed at enhancing the status of diverse individuals in the legal profession, providing research and study or development of educational programming on issues of importance to diverse individuals throughout the legal community.
4. Publicizing the distinct and vital contributions diverse individuals make to the legal profession. For example, promoting pro bono legal representation and service to diversity causes and announcing enhanced opportunities on behalf of diverse individuals in the New York State Bar Association or other bar associations, and advocating for the rights of those from diverse backgrounds.
5. Using power and resources to advance the position of diverse individuals in the legal profession and in their community. For example, exhibiting efforts to diversify the legal profession through community involvement, collaboration amongst members of the legal and civic community, and corporate or law firm commitments to diversity.

### Terms and Conditions

Attorneys that are licensed in New York State, whether practicing or not, are eligible. Nominees may be contacted for additional information or interviews.

### Diversity Trailblazer Award Past Recipients

- 2018 – Barbara Finkelstein, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
- 2018 – Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam, Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals (awarded posthumously)
- 2017 – Hon. Denny Chin, U.S. Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals
- 2016 – Christopher S. Auguste, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
- 2015 – Tracy L. High, Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell
- 2014 – Darryl M. Gibbs, Lead Director and Associate General Counsel, Contract Management, AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company
- 2013 – Lillian M. Moy, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- 2012 – Professor Jenny Rivera, City University of New York School of Law
- 2012 – Paul T. Williams, Jr., President, Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
- 2012 – Joseph Maron Hanna, Partner, Goldberg Segalla LLP
- 2011 – Hon. Theodore Jones, Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals
- 2011 – Sharon Y. Bowen, Partner, Latham & Watkins, LLP
- 2010 – Leonard M. Baynes, Professor, St. John's University School of Law
- 2009 – Laurie Robinson, founder and CEO of Corporate Counsel Women of Color
- 2008 – Taa Grays, Assistant General Counsel, MetLife
- 2007 – Carol A. Robles-Roman, Deputy Mayor and Counsel to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg
- 2006 – Hon. George Bundy Smith, Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals
- 2006 – Hon. George Leighton, Neal & Leroy, LLC
- 2006 – Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals

# 2019 DIVERSITY TRAILBLAZER AWARD NOMINATION FORM

**Nominations Must Be Received No Later Than Friday, September 28, 2018**

**Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the candidate won any award recognizing his or her diversity efforts from any other organization? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If yes, please detail below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach/provide:**

1. A supporting statement of no longer than 750 words, describing how and why the nominee deserves the Diversity Trailblazer Award. Include information that relates to the above criteria and other details, such as the quantitative and qualitative impact of the nominee’s trailblazing efforts.
2. Letters of support from up to three individuals who would be willing to be interviewed to enable the Committee to learn more about the nominee.
3. Valid URL addresses and/or pdf materials of relevant press related to the nominee’s diversity efforts (if applicable).



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
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