# New Jersey State Bar Association Pro Bono Awards

The NJSBA Pro Bono Awards recognize exemplary pro bono work that has had a significant impact on access to justice for underserved people and communities in New Jersey. Please see page 3 of this form to view the full criteria for each category of pro bono award. Only one nomination allowed per form.

**What category of award is this nomination?** Check only one category.

☐ Champion of Justice: ☐ Individual ☐ Group

☐ Pillar of Justice: ☐ Individual ☐ Group

☐ Distinguished New Lawyer (individual must have been in practice of law for less than 10 years.)

☐ Lifetime Achievement (individual must have been in practice of law for 25 years or more.)

☐ Mark Daniel Excellence in Pro Bono (individual must be a member of a corporate legal department.)

☐ Outstanding Law Student: ☐ Individual ☐ Group

☐ Lifetime Advancement of Pro Bono Service Award (individual must have been in practice of law for 25 years or more.)

**Please complete for Individual Nominees:**

Nominee's name _____

Nominee's organization _____

Nominee's address _____

Nominee's phone _____ Nominee's email _____

Is the nominee a NJSBA member? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

Admitted to practice in (list all states and years of admission) _____

Numbers of years nominee has been a lawyer _____

Number of years nominee has been a pro bono volunteer _____

**Please complete for Group Nominees:**

Name of group _____

Name of group contact _____

Contact's address _____

Contact's phone _____ Contact's email _____

URL of applicable _____ Number of nominees in group _____

Number of attorneys in group participating in pro bono work overall _____

Number of attorneys in group serving populations in New Jersey during the last year _____

**All nominators must complete the following (please submit additional sheets as needed):**

1. Has the nominee provided pro bono service, as defined under R. 1:21-11 for the benefit of New Jersey client populations in the last year? ☐ YES ☐ NO
   If yes, name the program(s) with whom the service was provided _____

   _____

2. How many pro bono clients has the nominee served in New Jersey since January 2024?_____
   How many pro bono clients served throughout the nominee's career (estimate as needed)? _____
   Please describe in detail the nominee's involvement in serving these pro bono clients, distinguishing between past and current pro bono efforts. Did the nominee take on cases for full representation, limited scope representation, coordinate or participate in legal clinics, etc.?

3. How many pro bono hours has the nominee donated to N.J. clients since January 2024?_____
   How many pro bono hours donated throughout the nominee's career (estimate as needed)?_____
   Please describe how the pro bono hours were calculated and provide a breakdown of the hours where the nominee has assisted in multiple pro bono efforts.

4. Describe how the nominee's pro bono work has had a significant impact on access to justice for underserved communities, including but not limited to the nominee's commitment to helping the underserved, the number of clients impacted by the pro bono work, how the pro bono work met a need of clients or communities that have been underserved, the number of years the nominee has served as a pro bono attorney, the nominee's efforts to mentor or train new pro bono volunteers and any other qualities that the nominee has that promote a culture of pro bono work in our legal community. The focus of the nomination should be on work performed for clients in New Jersey, but the nominator may also include brief information about work performed for out-of-state clients.

**For the Lifetime Achievement Award, also answer the following:**

5. Describe the nominee's long-standing commitment to pro bono work, including information about their leadership and inspiration to others, service as a role model or mentor, demonstrated passion for helping the underserved, lasting contribution to a field of law helping the underserved and their influence on the culture of pro bono work in New Jersey.

**For the Lifetime Advancement of Pro Bono Service Award, also answer the following:**

6. Describe the nominee's exemplary efforts of a public interest attorney with a long history of advancing pro bono work in New Jersey, including information about their leadership and inspiration to others, service as a role model or mentor, and their lasting contribution to the advancement of pro bono service

Person submitting the nomination_____

Name and office name_____

Association/relationship to nominee_____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

**Mail:** Attn: Paula Saha, NJSBA, One Constitution Square, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1520
**Email:** psaha@njsba.com

## New Jersey State Bar Association

# Pro Bono Award Categories

The NJSBA Pro Bono Committee will choose award recipients from the nominees submitted. Awards may or may not be presented in all award categories each year. Members of the NJSBA Pro Bono Committee are not eligible to receive any of these awards.

Submissions should be between 3 and 6 pages in length. Up to 3 letters of support may be attached, each of which should be no more than 1 page in length.

**CHAMPION OF JUSTICE PRO BONO AWARD**
This award recognizes the exemplary pro bono efforts of an individual attorney. In addition to the general criteria listed above, nominees in this category are evaluated on the scope of the individual lawyer's pro bono involvement and his or her promotion of pro bono service by others. Nominees for this award fall into one of three categories:

- Small—Solo practitioner or a lawyer in a law firm or corporate legal department with 1–5 lawyers
- Medium—Lawyer in a law firm or corporate legal department with 6–25 lawyers
- Large—Lawyer in a law firm or corporate legal department with 26 or more lawyers

**PILLAR OF JUSTICE PRO BONO AWARD**
This award recognizes significant and innovative pro bono contributions of law firms towards forwarding access to justice in New Jersey. In addition to the general criteria listed above, nominees in this category are evaluated based on the breadth and scope of the law firm's pro bono involvement, promotion of pro bono service by its lawyers, and inventive approaches taken by the firm. Nominees will be evaluated against law firms of comparable sizes (small departments 2–25 lawyers, or large departments 26+ lawyers.)

**DISTINGUISHED NEW LAWYER PRO BONO AWARD**
This award recognizes the pro bono excellence of new lawyers who have been in the practice of law for ten years or less. In addition to the general criteria listed above, nominees in this category are evaluated on the scope of the individual lawyer's pro bono involvement and his or her promotion of pro bono service by others.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT PRO BONO AWARD**
This award recognizes the exemplary pro bono efforts of an attorney with a long history of work in the pro bono arena. In addition to the general criteria listed above, nominees in this category are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- A career spanning at least 25 years with an established history of pro bono work
- Leadership and inspiration to others; service as a role model and/or mentor
- A lasting contribution to a field of law that impacts the underserved
- Influence on the pro bono arena

**MARK DANIEL EXCELLENCE IN PRO BONO AWARD**
Following in the tradition set by the late Mark Daniel, a visionary leader of pro bono efforts at Merck, the NJSBA, and nationally, this award recognizes exemplary pro bono efforts of corporate legal departments. In addition to the criterial listed above, nominees in this category are evaluated on the breadth and scope of the corporation's pro bono legal involvement and its promotion of pro bono service by its lawyers. Nominees should highlight work that showcases the unique role that corporate legal departments play in forwarding access to justice in New Jersey. Nominees will be evaluated against corporate legal departments of comparable sizes (small departments 2–25 lawyers, or large departments 26+ lawyers.)

**OUTSTANDING LAW STUDENT PRO BONO AWARD (individual or group may be nominated)**
This award recognizes exemplary pro bono efforts impacting access to justice for underserved communities in New Jersey by a law student or group of law students. The award specifically recognizes those who have excelled in supporting pro bono or legal aid programs and/or who have been instrumental in the development of a pro bono program satisfying previously unmet legal needs. All law-related activities for which the nominated party is credited must be within the realm of those permitted for law students or under the direction of a lawyer or law school program.

**LIFETIME ADVANCEMENT OF PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD**
This award recognizes the exemplary efforts of a public interest attorney with a long history of advancing pro bono in New Jersey. In addition to the general criteria listed above, nominees in this category are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- A career spanning at least 25 years with an established history of advancing pro bono work
- Leadership and inspiration to others; service as a role model and/or mentor in pro bono services
- A lasting contribution to the advancement of pro bono service