

■ American Judges Association

AMERICAN GAVEL AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED REPORTING ABOUT THE JUDICIARY



(757) 259-1841 | aja@ncsc.org

The American Gavel Award for Distinguished Reporting about the Judiciary was created in 2009 to recognize the highest standards of reporting about courts and the justice system. The award recognizes legal journalism at its best, and highlights the importance of journalism in educating the public about the legal system and the fundamental principles and values upon which that system is based.

Awards will be presented in two categories: National and Regional. The National award will be given for entries about the justice system that have the widest application, regardless of the area. The Regional award will be given to entries about the justice system that have more of a local focus.

American Gavel Award winners will:

- Be presented with a plaque recognizing their distinguished reporting, at the American Judges Association's annual conference.
- Be featured in American Judges Association's publication the "Court Review."
- Be listed permanently in the American Gavel Award section of the American Judges Association website.

Entries will be judged on how well they covered the judiciary as a whole, or helped illuminate the actions of judges or helped educate the public about the workings of the Judiciary. The articles, recordings, or video must have been published or broadcast in the period between **October 1, 2023 and August 15, 2024**. The competition is not open to publications or broadcast materials primarily intended for legal audiences or legal textbooks. Journalists working for house organs, government agencies, or for publications of organizations such as trade or bar association also will not be considered.

There is no restriction on who may nominate a journalist or media organization. The author may nominate himself or herself. If the entry is submitted by a separate nominator, it must be with the knowledge and permission of the journalist or the organization. The nominating letter should summarize briefly the impact of the work on either educating the public about the Judiciary.

Consideration will be given to a single news story, feature, series, documentary, special section, opinion piece or editorial if it is demonstrated in and of itself to have had extraordinary impact on achieving the objectives of the competition.

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Those submitting nominations must submit by email to aja@ncsc.org the following:

- Entry form
- Articles or broadcast pieces focused on coverage of the judiciary
- Support letter from nominator
- A brief biography if it is an individual being nominated

The American Judges Association administers the awards, and the Award Committee of the Association will make the selections. **Entries must be received by August 15, 2024.** The Award Committee reserves the right to place entries in categories other than those selected. The Association reserves the right not to select an award-winner due to lack of suitable entries.

Award winners will be notified in advance of the conference. By granting an award, the American Judges Association does not endorse the position taken by the entrant.

The American Judges Association is the voice of the Judiciary. It has nearly 1,000 members, which includes both present and former judges of courts of all jurisdictions in the United States, Canada, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Its Board of Governors is composed of representatives from fourteen districts.

The objective and purpose of the Association is: to promote and improve the effective administration of justice; to maintain the status and independence of the judiciary; to provide a forum for the continuing education of its members and the general public; and for the exchange of new ideas among all judges.

Address questions to: aja@ncsc.org | (757) 259-1841

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Entry Form :

Name of Journalist:

Title:

Media Organization:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Nominated By:

Category of Entry:

Title:

Media Organization:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Form Submission:

Email form to: aja@ncsc.org

Nomination Deadline: August 15, 2024