



Daniel J. Curtin, Jr. Young Public Lawyer Award

CRITERIA

The following are all of the criteria against which each nominee will be measured. The Board of Directors does not expect any nominee to meet all of the criteria. However, the nominee who best meets the most criteria is the most likely to be selected as that year's recipient. How the nominee meets the criteria should be thoroughly described in the nominator's statement in support of the nomination and in the letters of endorsement of the nominee.

1. The nominee must be 40 or younger or have been admitted to the bar for no more than ten years.
2. The nominee need not be employed by a local government but must have a substantial practice representing local governments.
3. Although the nominee's excellent qualities and service - exemplified throughout the nominee's years of practice - are a factor to be taken into consideration, the award primarily recognizes outstanding achievements during the course of the preceding year.
4. No attorney will be permitted to nominate him - or herself, nor will any current member of the IMLA Board of Directors, other than one whose tenure on the Board is ending during the current calendar year, be eligible for nomination.
5. The nominee has demonstrated a commitment to the practice of public law. The nominee routinely uses innovative or creative problem-solving in the practice of public law. The nominee has demonstrated a commitment to mentoring and teaching young lawyers to enhance their skills and knowledge of the law. The nominee has authored scholarly publications or presentations that foster the development and understanding of municipal law. The nominee has a record of exceptional accomplishments in the practice of public law. The nominee has made contributions to the public and to the legal profession, above and beyond his or her occupational duties. The nominee exhibits a high level of professionalism and exemplary integrity, diligence, and personal conduct.

ORIGIN AND PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

This award is established to honor the memory of Daniel J. Curtin, Jr. (1933-2006) by recognizing a new practitioner who exhibits those qualities that made Dan one of the truly remarkable lawyers working on behalf of public clients. In addition to the traditional qualities of excellence in the practice of law, the award seeks to recognize a public law practitioner who has provided outstanding service to the public and who possesses an exemplary reputation in the legal community, the highest of ethical standards, and who revels in maintaining a life that balances a passion for professional excellence with the joy of family and friends. In addition, the award seeks to recognize a person who exhibits qualities of openness and humility, coupled with a sincere concern for the interests of others, including the professional development of newer practitioners. The award is authorized by Article VI, Section 6 of the IMLA Bylaws.

PROCEDURE

1. The nominator must furnish basic information about the nominee by completing the attached nomination form or by furnishing the information called for on the form in a substantially identical format.
2. The nominator needs to write a clear and concise statement in support of the nomination describing the significant and surpassing professional achievements in the field of local government law that have occurred or culminated during the previous year, conveying as much information about the personal characteristics of the nominee as the nominator thinks would be helpful to the nomination, and thoroughly describing how the nominee fulfills the criteria established for bestowing the award (see “Criteria,” below).
3. The nominator must solicit and secure no fewer than three letters of endorsement of the nominee. The nominator should consider carefully the persons chosen to write the letters endorsing the nominee. Each letter should clearly and concisely convey information about the significant and surpassing professional achievements of the nominee in the field of local government law occurring or culminating in the previous year and the personal characteristics of the nominee, and should thoroughly describe how the nominee fulfills the criteria established for bestowing the award (see “Criteria,” below). Letters of endorsement from the executive director or the chief legal counsel of the appropriate State League, from the appropriate IMLA State Chair, and from the appropriate IMLA Regional Vice President will carry great weight.
4. The nominator must submit the completed nomination form, the statement in support of the nomination, and the three letters of endorsement to the IMLA Executive Director who, after adding IMLA staff comments, will forward these materials to the IMLA Awards Committee for its recommendation. The Awards Committee will then review the nomination and submit its recommendation to the IMLA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will decide whether to make the award. The Executive Director will notify the nominator of the Board’s decision.
5. Nominators may re-submit nominations from previous years, if appropriate.

6. The award will be presented to the person selected to receive the award at a formal awards ceremony held during that year's IMLA Annual Conference.

Please be aware that fully completed nominations must arrive at the IMLA offices by no later than the established deadline for that year in order to be considered. IMLA reserves the right to withhold bestowal of the award in any given year and to reject any and all nominees.