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.