



The Burk E. (Buck) Delventhal Legal Advocacy and Education Award

This award honors the life and legacy of Burk E. Delventhal, known to all as Buck, who served as a Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco from 1970 to 2019. His distinguished legal career is summarized in San Francisco Administrative Code Section 4.29 and is also captured in [this article](#).

The award recognizes the work of an attorney of an IMLA member in legal advocacy and education who has demonstrated superior professional skills in advancing the interests of the nominee's clients and of local government generally, and who, through litigation, legislative work, and educational efforts, has advanced the health, safety, and welfare of the community or communities the attorney has served.

CRITERIA

The following are the criteria against which each nominee will be measured. A nominee may but is not required to meet all of the criteria. However, the more criteria the nominee meets, the better the chance the nominee will be selected for the award. Equally important in evaluating the nominee is measuring the breadth and depth of the nominee's contributions in relation to the criteria.

The nominator's statement in support of the nomination should thoroughly depict how the nominee meets the following criteria, including by providing concrete examples, as well as by supplying explanations where necessary to show fulfillment of a particular criterion.

1. The nominee is an individual whose work, achievements, and distinguished service in the field of local government law meet the high standards set by Buck Delventhal during his career.
2. The public service performed by and the achievements of the nominee in the field of local government law have been truly outstanding, well above and beyond the call of duty and expectations for performance of a municipal attorney in the position(s) held.
3. The nominee has brought new and inspiring ideas to local and national municipal attorney programs and activities.
4. The nominee has enhanced the image of the municipal attorney locally as well as nationally, especially in the courts at all levels.

5. The nominee has engaged in successful litigation, legislative efforts, and efforts within administrative agencies that have positively impacted the lives of people in the community in myriad ways, including without limitation, by enhancing environmental protections; improving public health and safety; broadening consumer protections; promoting equality and support for minority and disenfranchised communities; advancing open government principles; strengthening local educational systems; fortifying local government revenues; and improving the nature and quality of local government services and programs.
6. The nominee has served in the role of educator for municipal attorneys through the presentation of papers and participation on panels at programs sponsored by local, state, and national professional associations, or by serving as an adjunct professor of law school courses related to municipal law, or by authoring articles or books related to municipal law.
7. The nominee has demonstrated the personal characteristics of integrity, honesty, leadership, selflessness, dedication, tact, diplomacy, political acuity, astuteness and respect in dealing with the press and the public, and collegiality and support in relating to other municipal attorneys.

PROCEDURE

1. The nominator furnishes basic information about the nominee by completing the nomination form, below (or furnishes the information called for by the form in a substantially identical format (generated by the nominator's word processor).
2. The nominator writes a clear and concise statement in support of the nomination, thoroughly describing how the nominee fulfills the criteria established for bestowing the award (see "Criteria,").
3. The nominator solicits and secures 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 professional achievements and personal characteristics of the nominee, and should thoroughly depict how the nominee fulfills the criteria established for bestowing the award (see "Criteria,").
4. The nominator encloses the completed nomination form, the statement in support of the nomination, and the three letters of endorsement to the IMLA General Counsel who, after adding IMLA staff comments, forwards them to the IMLA Awards Committee for decision. **Fully completed nominations must arrive at the IMLA offices by no later than the established deadline to be considered in that year's award process.** The decision of the Awards Committee will be rendered and the nominator will be notified of the decision.
5. IMLA reserves the right to reject any and all nominees for the award.

6. Nominators may re-submit nominations from previous years.
7. In the event a nominee is selected to receive the award, the award will be presented at a formal awards ceremony held during an IMLA Annual Conference. The recipient's name will be appropriately memorialized together with the names of previous recipients of the award.