

2025 Access to Justice Awards Nomination Form

Honoring extraordinary service in the communities we serve
by individuals and organizations in Ohio's Greater Miami Valley region.

Return Paper Nomination Form to:

Access to Justice Awards Nominations | 130 W. Second St., Suite 700 E. Dayton, OH 45402

OR

Submit your Nomination Online:

ablelaw.org/A2J-DAY-nominate

Questions?

Contact Jennifer Snedigar, ABLE Regional Director of Development,
at (937) 535-4420 or jsnedigar@ablelaw.org

Nominations Due:
Friday, September 5, 2025



People are doing great things in the Greater Miami Valley region to support equal justice. Please help us recognize them for their hard work and commitment to helping others with an Access to Justice Award. Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO), and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (GDVLP) want to publicly recognize extraordinary service to help those in need of civil legal help by attorneys and community leaders in the Greater Miami Valley region.

The awards will be presented at the **Access to Justice Awards Celebration** held on **November 6, 2025**.

Access to Justice Awards

November 6, 2025

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Sinclair Conference Center

Event Includes

Dinner

Mission Moments

Award Celebration

Lloyd O'Hara Public Interest Award

Patricia Rousseau Community Impact Award

**Brilliance Award for up-and-coming Attorney
from the Greater Miami Valley Area**

Attendees include colleagues of individual recipients, as well as supporters of legal services in the Greater Miami Valley Area.

Nominations can be submitted by email or in hard copy format. Please review the award criteria and complete the nomination form along with a letter of nomination to be received no later than **September 5, 2025**.

We look forward to adding the names of the 2025 honorees to this distinguished list.

All nominees must reside in the Greater Miami Valley region of Ohio and may not be employed by ABLE, LAW, or GDVLP. If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact the Regional Director of Development Jennifer Snedigar at 937-535-4420 or jsnedigar@ablelaw.org.

Access to Justice Award Recipients

Previous Public Interest Law Award

2006 John C. Lombard, Esq. (deceased)
2007 Susan M. Brasier
2008 Alan Kappers & Brian M. Wakefield

Lloyd O'Hara Public Interest Law Award

2011 Caroline H. Gentry
Thomas P. Whelley II
2012 Nancy A. Roberson
2013 Jeffrey A. Swillinger
2014 Carl D. Sherrets
2015 David E. Larson
2016 Merle F. Wilberding
2017 Jane P. Novick, Esq.
2018 D.K. Rudy Wehner
2019 Michael Rake, ESQ.
2020 Judith A. LaMusga
2021 Robert "Buzz" Portune
2022 The Hon. Robert W. Rettich, III
2023 Ericka C. Curran
2024 Kristina Rainer

Previous Community Advocacy Award

2006 East End Community Services
2007 Rosa Torres Caskey
2008 Dennis A. Lieberman
2011 Dr. Robert C. Walker
2012 John (Tim) Donnellan
Patricia S. Meadows
2013 Leaders for Equality and Action in Dayton
(LEAD)
2014 Think Tank, Inc.
2015 Derrick L. Foward
2016 Zakiya Sankara Jabra

Patricia Rousseau Community Advocacy Award

2017 National Conference for Community and
Justice Greater Dayton – Mary Tyler
2018 Khadijah H. Ali
2019 Gary LeRoy, MD
2020 Gabriela Pickett, Ph.D.
2021 The Westminster Presbyterian Church
2022 Tom Roberts
2023 Laura Bucio
2024 Yellow Springs Home, Inc.

Community Impact Award

2006 Faruki Ireland & Cox PLL
2007 Mary Bullen
2008 Marie P. (Penny) Wolff
2011 Aretmis Center
2012 Reach out Montgomery
2013 Life Essentials
2014 Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.
2015 St. Vincent DePaul
2016 Dean A. Lovelace (deceased)
2017 East End Community Services and
Jan LePore-Jentleson
2018 Amy Radachi
2019 Rev. Daryl Ward & Re. Vanessa Ward
2020 Judy Hennessey, Ph.D. &
Pastor Robert E. Jones
2021 Jill Bucaro
2022 WilmerHales' Legal Resource Center

Distinguished Service Award

2006 Gary J. Weston
2008 James D. Stahler
2011 Helenka Marculewicz
2012 Hon. Walter H. Rice
2013 Bro. Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D.
2014 Robert M. Curry
2015 D. Jeffrey Ireland
2016 The Hon. Mary L. Wiseman
2017 Dayton Legal Heritage Foundation of
The Dayton Foundation
2018 Susan R. Bridgman

Brilliance Award

2024 Keara Dever

2025 Access to Justice Awards Nomination Form

Please complete this form and submit a detailed letter describing how the nominee meets the criteria for the designated award, accompanied by brief biographical information. Support materials can include resumes, newspaper or newsletter articles, videos, etc. Specific information about the nominee is more helpful than general comments.

Nominator Details:

Name: _____ Title/Position: _____

Organization/Firm: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Lloyd O'Hara Public Interest Law Award

The **Public Interest Law Award** is named after renowned Dayton attorney Lloyd O'Hara because of his pioneering efforts to establish a Legal Aid Society in Dayton in the 1960s. O'Hara believed that everyone deserved access to legal representation, regardless of one's ability to pay. He devoted much of his personal time and resources as one of the original founders, and he continued his support for the agency and its mission throughout his lifetime.

The **Lloyd O'Hara Public Interest Law Award** is awarded to attorneys, judges, and law firms that have demonstrated a commitment to representing marginalized clients and community members. Representation over time and the pro bono nature of the work are heavily considered in the final selection of this award recipient.

Nominee Details:

Name: _____ Title/Position: _____

Organization/Firm: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- 1. Describe how the individual or firm you are nominating represents or has represented clients who need access to legal services in the Greater Miami Valley area.**

- 2. Please provide 1-2 examples of how this person or firm has engaged with the community and provided assistance and support.**

- 3. Over time, how has this person or firm established a history of providing help and assistance to those in need in the community?**

- 4. Has this person exhibited collaboration with other groups in the community to help make a difference in how people are helped?**

- 5. Does this person have a strong history of pro bono work that has helped those in need?**

Patricia Rousseau Community Advocacy Award

The Patricia Rousseau Community Advocacy Award—named after the late attorney, educator, advocate, and activist who served as a member of many community-minded organizational boards, including the First Baptist Church, **Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE)** and **Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO)**, the **Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (GDVLP)**, and MLK Dayton—is awarded to community organizers and grassroots organizations dedicated to improving the lives of people and groups living in the Greater Dayton area. The award is intended to recognize advocacy and community organizing, rather than direct provision of human services.

Nominee Details:

Name: _____ Title/Position: _____

Organization/Firm: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. Describe how the individual or organization you are nominating has demonstrated community advocacy.

2. Please provide 1-2 examples of how this person or organization has used their skills to advocate or work within the communities served.

3. Over time, how has this nominee established a history of working within communities we serve, and what was the impact of the community advocacy or organizing?

4. Has this person exhibited collaboration with other groups in the community to help make a difference in how people are served?

Brilliance Award for an Up-and-Coming Legal Professional

ABLE, LAWO, and the GDVLP understand and recognize the contributions to the local legal community that newer attorneys bring to the table. New in 2024, the **Brilliance Award** is awarded to up-and-coming lawyers who have been in the legal profession for 10 years or less, have shown an interest in advocacy, and have demonstrated a passion for the profession through at least 35 hours of pro bono work or volunteering at clinics or other community-driven opportunities. The award recipient will have an active interest in their community by volunteering, serving on local boards, or helping those in need in the **Greater Miami Valley region**.

Nominee Details:

Name: _____ Title/Position: _____

Organization/Firm: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. Describe how the individual you are nominating has had an impact in the past year on the communities served in the Greater Miami Valley area.

2. Please provide 1-2 examples of how this person has used their skills to advocate or work within the communities served while establishing their career.

3. Please share how the nominee has helped those in need as an up-and-coming attorney and what impact they have had on the community as they are getting started in the profession.

4. Has this person exhibited collaboration with other groups in the community to help make a difference in how people are served? Please share an example or success story.

5. Does this person have a consistent track record of serving the community through pro bono opportunities, clinics, events, and volunteer opportunities? Please provide details of these community involvements.

**Nomination forms must be received by
Friday, September 5, 2025.**