

# 2014 United States Bankruptcy Court Pro Bono Recognition Awards

## Program Overview

In furtherance of Canon 4A of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges and Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Rule 4.1 (Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service), the Pro Bono Legal Services Advisory Committee of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts will present awards to individual lawyers, law firms, government attorneys, corporate law departments, law students, law schools, legal service agencies and/or other institutions in the legal profession that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services to the poor and economically disadvantaged throughout the District of Massachusetts. The awards will be presented in a ceremony at the John W. McCormack Post Office and Court House in Boston on October 30, 2014 in conjunction with the American Bar Association's recognition of October as National Pro Bono Month. Up to four regional awards may be presented: Western Division, Central Division, Eastern Division and the Cape, Islands/ South Coast Region.

## The Recognition Awards

The Recognition Award Program seeks to identify and honor individual lawyers, law firms, government attorneys, corporate law departments, law students, law schools and other institutions in the legal profession who have improved the availability of or have delivered volunteer legal services in the District of Massachusetts. The Awards recognize those who have served their local communities as well as assisted in the administration of justice in the United States Bankruptcy Court. These services are of critical importance to the increasing number of people who need counsel and expertise to navigate an often complex and complicated legal terrain in a challenging economic climate.

## Criteria

Award recipients will be selected from those who have excelled in providing volunteer services in one or more of the following ways:

1. Participating in activities or *pro bono* programs which resulted in satisfying previously unmet needs of or in extending services to underserved residents of the District;
2. Litigating *pro bono* cases in the United States Bankruptcy Court and/or
3. Advancing and promoting legislation that contributed substantially to legal services to the indigent.

*Pro bono* activities from August 1, 2013 through and including August 31, 2014 will be considered for eligibility.

## Nomination Guidelines

- Please submit a brief narrative explaining how the candidate meets the criteria for The Recognition Awards. The narrative should specify the nature of the *pro bono* contributions and generally identify those who have benefited.
- Supporting information should include the nominee's principal areas of practice, the number of years practicing law, time spent on *pro bono* activities, other public service contributions, educational background, bar association activities and supporting documents.
- Include at least three (3) letters of support from other individuals and organizations who are aware of the candidate's *pro bono* contribution. Self-nominations will be considered.
- Nominations submitted in 2013 remain active for consideration in the 2014 Awards program provided that the nominating party submits a letter restating his or her intent to nominate the candidate and updating the narrative with any relevant information.

## DEADLINE

- **Nominations must be received no later than Friday, September 12, 2014.**
- **Submit written nominations and all materials to: Denise M. Shear, Ostrander Law Offices, 36 Service Center Road, P.O. Box 1237, Northampton, MA 01061.**