



**United States Bankruptcy Court
District of Massachusetts
Pro Bono Recognition Award 2016**

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 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 Thursday, October 6, 2016** in conjunction with the American Bar Association's recognition of October as National Pro Bono Month. Nominations may be submitted for consideration of the following awards: Western Division, Central Division, Eastern Division, the Cape, Islands/South Coast Region and the District of Massachusetts.

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 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. The 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 are selected from those who have excelled in providing volunteer services in one or more of the following ways:

1. Volunteer participation in activities or pro bono programs which resulted in satisfying previously unmet needs or in extending services to underserved residents of the District;
2. Successfully litigating pro bono cases in the United States Bankruptcy Court that favorably affect economically disadvantaged individuals and/or
3. Successfully achieved legislation that contributed substantially to legal services to the indigent.
4. Mentoring new practitioners entering the bankruptcy field to help promote professional excellence.

Pro bono activities from September 1, 2015 through and including August 31, 2016 will be considered for eligibility.

Nomination Guidelines

- Please complete the Pro Bono Recognition Award 2016 Nomination Form.
- Please submit a narrative detailing how the candidate meets the criteria for The Recognition Awards.
- Include at least one letter of support from another individual and/or organization who are aware of the candidate's pro bono contributions. Self-nominations accompanied with two letters of support from other individuals and/or organizations will be considered.
- Nominations submitted in 2015 remain active for consideration in the 2016 Awards program provided that the nominating party submits a Pro Bono Recognition Award 2016 Nomination Form, and provides any updates to the 2015 nomination materials with any relevant information.

DEADLINE

- **Nominations must be received no later than AUGUST 15, 2016.**
- **Submit written nominations via email to: Denise M. Shear, Rescia Katz & Shear LLP, 355 Bridge Street, Suite 4B, Northampton, MA 01060. Email: denise@ctmalaw.com**



**United States Bankruptcy Court
District of Massachusetts**

Pro Bono Recognition Award 2016 Nomination Form

Please review the criteria before completing this Nomination. To provide as much detail as possible, please use additional sheets.

Nominee Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address

City State ZIP Code

Phone: _____ Email _____

Award Nominated

District of Massachusetts Award

Eastern Division

Cape & Islands Division Award

Western Division Award

Central Division Award

Nominee's Education

Law School and year graduated: _____

College and year graduated: _____

Other Education: _____

Nominee's Employment

In lieu of completing this section, a current resume or C.V. may be submitted.

Current Firm/
Agency: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Web Address: _____

Previous Firm/
Agency: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Web Address: _____
Dates of
Employment: _____

Nominee's Pro Bono Appearances in the US Bankruptcy Court

- Not Applicable Not Known

If Nominee appeared pro bono in the US Bankruptcy Court, please provide the following:

Case Number(s): _____ If cases were referred by a legal service agency please identify _____

Nominee's Mentoring Contributions

- Not Applicable Not Known

If Nomination includes mentoring of bankruptcy practitioners, please provide the following:

Mentorees:

Nominators are encouraged to provide contact information for or letters of recommendation from mentorees.

Additional Criteria, If Applicable (Additional Sheets Required)

Legal service agency volunteerism: Describe the nature and details of the service and the dates.

Financial Literacy Programs: Identify the programs, the participants, the nature and details of the service, and the dates.

Bar Activities: Identify volunteer bar association service, including CLE participation if any, along with the nature and details of the service.

Community service: Identify all non-profit agencies the nominee's pro bono service directly benefited, if any, along with the nature and details of the service, and the dates.

Military Service: Please identify branch and describe service.

Letters in Support: One additional letter of support is required. If self-nominating, two letters in addition to this application are required. Letters should not be from same firm, organization or affiliate as the nominator.

Nominator's Signature

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Employer/Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____