

The Connecticut Law Tribune is accepting nominations in twelve categories for our fourth annual Professional Excellence Awards.

Our goal at ALM is to serve the entire legal community, and as part of that, we're adding new wrinkles to our annual Professional Excellence Awards to make sure we get a chance to highlight the great work and achievements across the full breadth of the Connecticut legal community. To that end, while we're still looking for Lifetime Achievement and New Leader nominees from all sizes of firms—large, medium and small—we're introducing a number of contests specifically tailored to recognize those at midsize and small firms.

We are introducing five additional new categories this year, all geared exclusively toward firms with fewer than 200 lawyers. The new categories are: Game Changers, Giant Slayers, Best Officiators, Unsung Hero, and Best Mentor.

The honorees will be recognized in special editorial sections in May and at a reception and at the Connecticut Legal Awards dinner in May in Hartford, CT.

Please see below for specific guidelines for nominations in each category.

The following three awards are open to firms of **all sizes**:

Lifetime Achievement Awards: Open to all firms. Please tell us in up to 500 words about anyone living who has left a lasting imprint on the legal community of Connecticut. We are looking for lawyers from a wide range of practice areas; and from the public and private sector; from big and small firms; from corporate legal departments; from all regions of the state. Nominations should be sent to EditorialAwards@alm.com, with the subject line "Connecticut Law Tribune Lifetime Achievement Awards," by 5 p.m. **Thursday, March 1**. Please include a high-resolution color photo of the nominee, at least 200 dpi.

Attorney of the Year: Open to all firms. This award goes to the lawyer who has had outstanding success or achievement in 2017, and can take the form of litigation or pro bono efforts, effective advocacy for legislation or social causes, tangible achievements in leadership roles in bar organizations or anything else that had a significant impact on the Connecticut legal community. To nominate yourself, a friend or colleague, please let us know by sending an email essay with the subject line "Connecticut Law Tribune Attorney of the Year," of up to 500 words to EditorialAwards@alm.com by 5 p.m., **Thursday, March 1**.

New Leaders in the Law: Open to all firms. We're looking to spotlight lawyers under the age of 40 by the submission deadline who have excelled in the courtroom, in client service and cultivation, in service to bar associations and in performing pro bono work or community service in a volunteer capacity. It's important to note that nominees need not excel in every one of these areas; just a one or two will suffice. Please send nominations to EditorialAwards@alm.com, with the subject line "Connecticut Law Tribune New Leaders in the Law," by 5 p.m. **Thursday, March 1**. Please include a high-resolution color photo of the nominee, at least 200 dpi.

The following awards are open **only to firms with fewer than 200 lawyers firmwide**:

Distinguished Leaders: This recognizes lawyers who achieved impressive results in 2017 and demonstrated clear leadership skills that helped them achieve those results. Examples include--but are not limited to--winning a big case, helping a firm grow, managing a big deal or getting a key piece of legislation passed (or defeated). **Attorneys must be leaders at firms with fewer than 200 lawyers.** Please send up to 500 words about this person in an email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune Distinguished Leaders," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1.**

Litigation Departments of the Year (Midsize): The Connecticut Law Tribune's Litigation Departments of the Year (Midsize) contest is open to any litigation law firm with a Connecticut presence and fewer than 200 lawyers firmwide. Connecticut lawyers must have had a significant impact on the work being presented, though the work does not need to have been done in Connecticut. Because many lawyers and firms have regional or national practices, we will take into account cases handled by Connecticut attorneys in out-of-state courts.

The contest has two distinct categories: 1) Awards for the top overall litigation department(s) (large, mid-size and small law firms encouraged to apply). 2) Separate honors for departments that handle specialty litigation practice areas that may include: (a) Appellate, (b) Intellectual Property; (c) Products Liability/Mass Torts; (d) Labor and Employment; (e) Insurance; (f) Commercial Litigation; (g) Family Law; (h) Business Litigation; (i) Arbitration/ Mediation Services; (j) Personal Injury (k) White Collar/Corporate Compliance, (l) Probate and (m) solo litigation practice and (n) others to be named.

You may compete in the overall category, any number of specialty categories, or a combination of the overall and specialty categories. Depending on the number and quality of entries, there may be multiple award winners in some categories.

Please **see the main nominations post to download guidelines** with specific information needed to compose submissions. Please submit all materials via email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune Litigation," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1.**

Game Changers: Do you have an attorney who has made a difference in the field of law, who has been a positive force for change? Someone who has affected public policy or best practices? Tell us in a brief write-up what this person has done to make the world of law a better place. **Attorneys must be from firms with fewer than 200 lawyers.** Please send up to 500 words about this person in an email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune Game Changer," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1.**

Giant Slayer: David-vs.-Goliath scenarios are what we're looking for here. As the legal landscape continues to change dramatically, midsize and small firms are increasingly finding themselves competing against much larger firms and with much higher stakes than ever before. Did an attorney at your firm have a major role in taking down a powerful foe, or otherwise overcoming long odds? How did this play out? **Attorneys must be from firms with fewer than 200 lawyers.** Please send up to 500 words about this person in an email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune Giant Slayer," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1.**

Best Officiators: Is there a judge, or retired judge practicing as a mediator or arbitrator, you would call out for exceptionally poignant and effective work? Tell us which officiator went above and beyond the call of duty to be fair and judicious in the process of decision making. Please send up to 500 words about this person in an email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune Best Officiator," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1**.

Unsung Hero: Choose an attorney who has gone unnoticed for, or worked behind the scenes on, particularly important work. **Attorneys must be from firms with fewer than 200 lawyers.** Please send up to 500 words about this person in an email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune Unsung Hero," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1**.

Best Mentors: Succession planning is crucial for midsize and small firms. In addition, more and more young lawyers are being drawn to these firms for the opportunity to get hands-on legal training. Best Mentors honors those more senior attorneys who have taken it upon themselves to prepare the next generation of leaders. We are looking for a sage here, someone who has provided valuable knowledge to younger attorneys, paving the way for advancement and stellar contributions to the industry. **Attorneys must be from firms with fewer than 200 lawyers.** Please send up to 500 words about this person in an email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune Best Mentor," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1**.

The following categories are open **only to in-house legal departments and corporate counsel**:

In-House Departments of the Year: The Connecticut Law Tribune will honor the best legal departments in Connecticut and is seeking help in determining the deserving companies. To be considered for the awards, send us an essay to nominate a corporate legal department that is Connecticut-situated or with a nexus to Connecticut. Anyone is welcome to submit a nomination, including law firms and the legal departments themselves. The questions are grouped into six (6) categories, and a separate award will be given for each. You may answer for all six (6) categories, or you may confine your answers to one specific category or more. Please **see the main nominations post to download guidelines** with specific information needed to compose submissions. Please submit all materials via email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune In-House," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1**.

GC Impact: This recognizes an in-house lawyer who had a significant accomplishment in 2017. Please send up to 500 words about this person in an email to EditorialAwards@alm.com with the subject line, "Connecticut Law Tribune GC Impact," by 5 p.m. on **Thursday, March 1**.

If you have any questions, please contact managing editor Michael Marciano at mmarciano@alm.com.