

OCAA Awards

General criteria:

- Unless otherwise specified, award recipients must be attorneys practicing municipal law (either in-house or outside counsel) and members of the OCAA.
- Award decisions are determined by a majority vote of the OCAA Executive Board members present and voting on the matter.
- The board may confer multiple awards in any category.
- Non-lawyers and non-OCAA members may nominate others; OCAA members may self-nominate or nominate others.
- Nominations will be kept confidential by the OCAA if not awarded.
- Awards marked with an asterisk may be given to a person who is an attorney, a non-attorney, and/or a non-member of the OCAA, such as an appointed or elected official.
- OCAA supports the goal of diversity in its membership and leadership. As such, we encourage nominations that represent Oregon's diversity.

- 1. Outstanding Achievement Award:** Recognizes a singular and significant public law achievement by an individual attorney or a group of attorneys.
Award Criteria: Recognizes an individual or team for a recent exceptional accomplishment that has improved the lives of Oregonians through the representation of a public entity. Achievements may be wide and varied, including but not limited to a precedent-setting court victory, guiding a public entity through a particularly challenging process, or assisting Oregon residents during an emergency event.
- 2. *Leadership in Law Award:** Honors a person who has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership either within their organization or in the broader legal community.
Award Criteria: Nominees should have at least eight years of service in a government legal role.
- 3. Excellence in Mentorship Award:** Acknowledges experienced attorneys who have dedicated significant energy and sustained attention to mentoring others in the legal field, making substantial contributions to the legal education, professional development, and careers of both newer and more experienced government attorneys, especially but not limited to those from diverse and historically underrepresented groups in the legal profession. Award Criteria: Nominees should have at least ten years of legal experience, with a substantial portion in a government role.
- 4. Distinguished Career Award:** Celebrates attorneys who have consistently shown exemplary dedication and service to the profession, their clients, and the communities they serve throughout their legal careers.
Award Criteria: Nominees should have at least twenty years of legal service, primarily in government positions.

- 5. Notable New Lawyer:** Honors a newer lawyer (first eight years of membership in any state bar) who has provided outstanding service to the municipal legal profession and public, as well as dedication to issues of concern to new and/or young lawyers.
Award Criteria: Any OCAA member who has practiced 8 years or less may apply or be nominated. Award applications should describe a relevant project or service to the public and/or the legal profession. The application should highlight work performed in the preceding year but may also describe work that precedes that time. The award recognizes a new or young lawyer for their individual achievements.

- 6. *Special Award of Appreciation:** Bestowed at the discretion of and by the majority concurrence of the OCAA Executive Committee, recognizing outstanding contributions or service to the municipal law or local community.
Award Criteria: The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the public through efforts involving pro bono services, coordination of local public service law-related events, service with a community board or organization, or similar activities that benefit the public.