2020 Bernard P. Becker

Legal Services Staff and

Volunteer Law Student Awards

***Deadline: February 24, 2020***

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Bernard P. Becker Awards. These awards recognize the dedicated service and outstanding achievements of four recipients: three legal services staff and one volunteer law student. The awards include $550 for each staff recipient and $500 for the law student recipient.

***Eligibility***

**Legal Services Staff**: The Bernard P. Becker Legal Services Staff award is presented to attorneys, paralegals, administrators or other staff employed by a private, nonprofit agency that provides legal services to low-income and disadvantaged eligible clients. Recipients must have a demonstrated commitment to provision of zealous and skilled legal representation for low-income and disadvantaged clients. The Awards Committee may consider direct client representation, work in support of direct client representation, and other activities in the client or legal communities. Nominees who have not received past recognition from the MSBA or other organizations will receive preference.

Awards for staff fall into three categories:

1. **Legacy of Excellence**: Recipients (attorneys or support/advocate staff) have demonstrated a career-long commitment to excellence in the legal services field.
2. **Emerging Leader**: Recipients are attorneys with up to 10 years of cumulative legal aid service and a record of outstanding service and/or extraordinary accomplishments in the field.
3. **Advocate/Support Award**: Awarded to a non-attorney legal aid staff member for outstanding service in the legal services field.

**Law Student Volunteers**: The Bernard P. Becker Law Student Volunteer Award is presented to one law student who has demonstrated a commitment to the provision of legal services to low-income and disadvantaged persons. Nominees should have engaged in substantial volunteer work, including activities in the client or legal communities, and law school work beyond the minimum requirements for academic credit. Nominees who have not received past recognition from the MSBA or other organizations will receive preference. 2019 graduates are eligible for the 2019 awards.

***Nominations and Selection***

**NEW in 2020: Each organization is limited to one nominee per category.** This limitation is designed to ensure that each organization, which knows its own attorneys and staff best, will choose the most deserving nominee among its own attorneys and staff.

Nominations may be received from any source. The nomination should describe specifically how the nominee has demonstrated a commitment to the provision of zealous and skilled legal representation for

low-income and disadvantaged clients, including direct client representation, work in support of direct client representation, and other activities in the client or legal communities. Feel free to attach supporting materials that speak to the nominee's relevant activities.

The MSBA Access to Justice Committee will screen nominations and make recommendations to the MSBA Council. The MSBA Council selects the recipients.

**Nominations must be submitted** **BY E-MAIL** **ONLY** **no later than February 24, 2020.**

Questions? Contact Sherri Knuth at the MSBA, 612-278-6330, sknuth@mnbars.org

**2020 Becker Legal Services Staff Award**

**Nomination Form - Legacy of Excellence Award**

1. **Nominee**

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Name and Job Title

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Phone Email

1. **Nominator**

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Name and Job Title

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Phone Email

How do you know this nominee?

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Please attach one to two pages describing *specifically* how this nominee has demonstrated a commitment to provisions of

zealous and skilled legal representation for low-income and disadvantaged clients. Include direct client representation, work in support of direct client representation, and other activities in the client or legal communities. Please include mention of any previous recognition this nominee has received and **attach a copy of the nominee’s most recent resume.**

Nominations must be submitted BY E-MAIL ONLY.

Click here to submit the nomination form. Attach supporting information to the email.

Questions? Contact Sherri Knuth at the MSBA, 612-278-6330, sknuth@mnbars.org.

2020 Becker Volunteer Law Student Award

Nomination Form

1. **Nominee**

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Name and Job Title

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Law School and Year of Graduation

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Phone Email

1. **Nominator**

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Employer/Law School

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Phone Email

How do you know this nominee?

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**2020 Becker Legal Services Staff Award**

**Nomination Form- Emerging Leader**

1. **Nominee**

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Name and Job Title

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Employer

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Phone Email

1. **Nominator**

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Name and Job Title

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Phone Email

How do you know this nominee?

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**2020 Becker Legal Services Staff Award**

**Nomination Form- Advocate/Support Award**

1. **Nominee**

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Name and Job Title

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Phone Email

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