NATHANIEL R. HARPER AWARD

The Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyers Division seeks nominations for the 2020 Nathaniel R. Harper Award. The Award seeks to recognize those individuals or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to changing the face of the Kentucky Bar by promoting full and equal participation in the legal profession through the encouragement and inclusion of women, minorities, persons with disabilities, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community and/or other underrepresented groups.

The Award is named for Nathaniel R. Harper, one of the first African-Americans to be admitted to the practice of law in Kentucky. Because African-Americans were excluded from law schools in the Commonwealth at the time of Harper’s admission, he established the Harper Law School in his law office, where he trained and helped produce several African-American lawyers. It is Harper’s pioneering spirit and sense of responsibility to pave the way for others that the Award seeks to honor.

To nominate a lawyer, non-lawyer, or organization for the 2020 Nathaniel R. Harper Award, please submit a nomination letter explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award. Please limit the nomination letter to no more than three pages. The nomination letter should include the following:

a) Details regarding the candidate’s efforts to promote diversity in the Kentucky Bar (including dates) and how the candidate’s approach to increasing diversity is innovative;
b) Description of the candidate’s impact on the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the Kentucky Bar;
c) Description of how the candidate has, through the candidate’s own achievements, paved the way for diverse attorneys in the profession, including any obstacles the candidate overcame to reach goals; and
d) Whether the candidate has previously been recognized for contributions to diversity, and if so, what was the type of recognition and when was it received.

To nominate an individual for the 2020 Nathaniel R. Harper Award, please submit a completed nomination form and any supporting materials by Friday, April 10, 2020. Letters should be directed to Megan P. Keane, Young Lawyers Division Vice-Chair, Dzenitis Newman, PLLC, 8006 Lyndon Centre Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40222, or emailed as an attachment to mkeane@dznlaw.com.

The Nathaniel R. Harper Award recipient will be honored at the KBA Convention, June 24-26, 2020 in Louisville, Kentucky. The Award will be presented at the Membership Luncheon. If you have any questions, please contact Megan P. Keane at mkeane@dznlaw.com.