



National Association
of Counsel for Children

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nominations must be submitted no later than June 21, 2019

Mission

The mission of the National Association of Counsel for Children is to advance the rights, well-being, and opportunities of children impacted by the child welfare system through access to high-quality legal representation. A cornerstone of NACC's 2019-2023 [Strategic Plan](#) is **Promoting Excellence** in legal representation.

The Awards

NACC is accepting nominations for individuals and offices/agencies who demonstrate excellence in legal representation for children. The **Promoting Excellence Awards** are presented annually to individuals and institutions making significant contributions to the rights and well-being of children through legal representation. This year we are pleased to announce two new awards: the President's Award, which will be presented every other year utilizing criteria set by NACC's Board President, and the Outstanding Children's Law Office/Agency, to be presented annually.

This year, award nominations will be considered in four categories (criteria on following page):

- **President's Award**
- **Outstanding Legal Advocate**
- **Outstanding New Lawyer**
- **Outstanding Children's Law Office/Agency**

The awards will be presented at NACC's 42nd National Child Welfare Law Conference Annual Luncheon in Anaheim, California, August 27, 2019. The awardee need not be present to win, but each award includes one free conference registration and tickets for three additional guests at the annual luncheon.

Nominations

Nominations are submitted by a letter of nomination (2 pages maximum) from the nominating individual, which may be submitted with supplemental nomination letters, media reports, and/or other supporting documentation (all documents must be combined in a single PDF).

Nominations must be uploaded before the **June 21, 2019 deadline**.

(Form for uploading nominations will be live next week).

2019 Award Criteria

President's Award, by NACC Board President Candi Mayes, JD, CWLS

- Nominee is a Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS)(or equivalent state specialization status) and has been a CWLS for at least 7 years
- Nominee has been a mentor/role model/leader in the child welfare community (please include specific examples)
- Nominee has used their legal expertise to advance and protect the rights of minority, LGBTQ+, and/or uniquely abled foster youth
- Nominee has worked to educate or partner with at least one group or organization outside of the child welfare legal community for the benefit of foster youth (please include a specific example)

Outstanding Legal Advocate Award

- Nominee has demonstrated excellence in legal and/or policy advocacy throughout their career in child welfare
- Nominee's legal expertise has significantly promoted the legal rights, well-being, and opportunities of children in the child welfare system, or, nominee's policy advocacy has impacted and promoted high-quality legal representation
- Nominee's work has contributed to advancing justice for children and elevating standards of child welfare practice in their community.
- Any other relevant information to be considered

Outstanding New Lawyer Award

- Nominee has practiced law for five years or less
- Nominee has demonstrated excellence in legal representation or policy advocacy on behalf of children in the child welfare system
- Nominee has demonstrated early leadership and initiative in advancing excellence in child welfare law, practice, and/or policy in their community
- Any other relevant information to be considered

Outstanding Children's Law Office/Agency Award

- Nominee has exemplified excellence in law office/agency practice and management on behalf of children in the child welfare system
- Nominee exemplifies best practices for organizational representation as described in the *Children's Law Office Handbook*
- Nominee has demonstrated leadership, influence, and impact in children's legal advocacy and child welfare law in their community/state
- Any other relevant information to be considered