

James I. Keane Memorial Award For Excellence in eLawyering

This Award is named for James I. Keane, the founding Chair of the Law Practice Management Section eLawyering Task Force. The Task Force was created in 2000, when ABA President William G. Paul, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, took the unusual and creative step of asking a Section to assume responsibility for one of his presidential initiatives, namely an examination of ways that lawyers could use the Internet and other electronic resources to deliver legal services to people of moderate means more efficiently and effectively.

eLawyering is doing legal work – not just marketing – over the Web. Pioneering practitioners have found dramatic new ways to communicate and collaborate with clients and other lawyers, produce documents, settle disputes, interact with courts, and manage legal knowledge. eLawyering encompasses all the ways in which lawyers can do their work using the Web and associated technologies. Think of eLawyering as a “verb” – interview, investigate, counsel, draft, advocate, analyze, negotiate, manage, ... – and there are corresponding Internet-based tools and technologies.

There are exciting initiatives underway now that deserve attention by all lawyers – present and future. While admittedly just a subset of the vast legal technology world, eLawyering and its lawyer-less analogs present fundamental challenges for our profession. There are great dangers, but also great opportunities for attorneys in the coming decade. To be successful in the coming era, lawyers will need to know how to practice over the Web, manage client relationships in cyberspace, and ethically offer “unbundled” services.

The purpose of this Award is to give recognition to law offices that have developed legal service innovations that are delivered over the Internet to individuals seeking legal services. Thus, the focus of the award is the innovative delivery of personal legal services, with special attention given to firms and entities that serve both moderate income individuals and the broad middle class.

Eligibility

- Nominees may be any individual lawyer, law firm or other deliverer of legal services to individuals within the United States. The nominee can be a large or small law firm, public or private. More than one entry be submitted. The nominee can be a legal services agency. The Task Force encourages self-nomination.

Nominations must be mailed by December 31, 2007 and will be reviewed by an impartial three-person jury. Winners will be notified by January 31, 2008, and will be honored at a special ceremony at the ABA TECHSHOW in Chicago in March, 2008.

Nomination Criteria

- Absence of precedent (Never been done or done quite this way, before.)
- Evidence of action (The innovative idea was transformed into action and not merely reflective of best intentions.) The nominee should be prepared to provide evaluation data which documents the effectiveness of the legal service in terms of client satisfaction, revenue enhancement, and/or law productivity. The nomination must provide an analysis of the measures used to define success

- Effectiveness of innovation (There is some measurable outcome that would indicate that the innovation is accomplishing what it was intended to do.)
- The project must demonstrate the use of the Internet to deliver legal services.
- Action must have taken place within no more than three years prior this entry and the legal service must be operating for at least one year prior to submission of the Application.
- Additional consideration will be given to projects that focus on the delivery of legal services to individuals of moderate means.
- The nomination should describe how the service was developed, how it is managed, and how it is evaluated.
- The nomination should describe how the service can be replicated by other law firms in terms of development costs, required technology, people requirements, and on-going maintenance costs.

The Nomination Process

A submission should include the following:

i. Nomination Information Sheet

The nomination information sheet in this brochure should be submitted as the cover sheet of the nomination package. Please complete this form and send with your nomination materials.

ii. Program Description or Nominee Resume

Please attach a brief (300 word or less) description of the entity to be nominated and either the legal services that are delivered or the technological innovation that is employed.

Supporting Materials

- a. The package may include specific documentation and other materials, such as news articles, that demonstrate the nominee's contributions.
- b. Nomination materials should include information about the ability to replicate the program or project as described in the Award criteria.

Please keep a copy of your entry. Nominations submissions and materials supplied as exhibits cannot be returned.

iii. Submissions

Send nomination and supporting materials no later than December 31, 2007.

Award Presentation

Awards will be presented during the ABA TECHSHOW.

Selection Process

The ABA eLawyering Task Force of the Law Practice Management Section will review the nominations and select the recipient. The eLawyering Task Force will empanel three impartial

members will make recommendations to the eLawyering Task Force, whose leaders will decide in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Law Practice Management Section Council.

Meritorious Recognition Awards may be granted to additional nominees at the Committee's discretion. The Committee reserves the right not to present the Award in a given year.

Nominees will be described in the Law Practice Magazine and other LPM Publications.

To submit your nomination, print off this completed form and send four copies to:

In addition, the recipient will receive one free pass to ABA TECHSHOW.