

# 2009 Spirit of Excellence Awards Nomination Form

The American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession is accepting nominations for the 2009 Spirit of Excellence Awards.

## Purpose

The Spirit of Excellence Awards celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of lawyers who work to promote a more racially and ethnically diverse legal profession. Awards are presented to lawyers who excel in their professional settings: who personify excellence on the national, state, or local level; and who have demonstrated a commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession.

“Ad Astra per Aspera—  
To the Stars Through Difficulty”

## Nominee information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of nominee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title/position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm/organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/state/zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

## Motto

The motto of the Spirit of Excellence Awards symbolizes the struggle of racially and ethnically diverse lawyers as they travel the road to personal and professional success. Special indeed is the person who can navigate his or her own way, while paving the way and assisting those who follow.

## Nomination deadline date

Nomination materials must be received by the Commission on or before August 18, 2008. Complete all information below. Please print.

## Nominator information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of nominee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title/position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm/organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/state/zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

## Categories

Please indicate one category that most closely describes the Nominee's current position or activity.

- Private practice
- Non-profit
- Judiciary
- Academia

- Government
- State, local or minority bar leader
- Prosecutor/public defender
- Corporate/ business sector

- Legal author/journalist
- Other (please explain)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Nomination Instructions

*Nomination materials must be received by the Commission on or before August 17, 2008.*

## Nominations

Please complete the nomination form. It should be the first page of your nomination materials.

## Nominee's resume and photograph

Please submit the nominee's resume and/or curriculum vitae as well as a narrative biography, describing his or her background and contributions to racial and ethnic diversity efforts, along with a current photo that can be reproduced should your nominee be selected as a recipient.

## Supporting materials

- Please submit no more than three letters of support from individuals or organizations that speak to these six criteria.
- Only the first three letters of support received by the Commission will be considered by the selection committee.

## Procedural guidelines

- Send nomination materials along with this form, the nominee's resume and/or biography, current photo, and no more than three letters of support from individuals or organization
- Please be aware that no nomination materials will be returned due to the number of nominations received each year.
- All nominees must be ABA members.

## Mail to

American Bar Association  
Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity  
in the Profession

SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

321 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60610-4714

Telephone: 312.988.5643  
Fax: 312.988.5647

## Criteria narrative

- Please supply answers on a separate sheet(s) and attach them to your nomination materials.
  - Provide *specific* examples to the following questions.
  - Provide the following information, if applicable, regarding your nominee (all may not apply to a nominee).
1. Describe how the nominee has achieved professional excellence in his or her field.
  2. Describe how the nominee has served as an inspiration or a role model in overcoming hardships or barriers and achieving success and excellence in the legal profession thus paving the way for others.
  3. Describe how the nominee has influenced racially and ethnically diverse individuals to pursue and/or to succeed in legal careers.
  4. Describe how the nominee has opened doors, broken down barriers or otherwise promoted the full and equal participation of racially and ethnically diverse individuals in the legal profession.
  5. Describe the nominee's work with or efforts on behalf of racially and ethnically diverse lawyers from racial or ethnic groups other than the nominee's own.
  6. Describe the nominee's service or work in the community.

## Spirit of Excellence – Corporate Award

1. Describe the nominee's position within the corporation or law firm, including areas of responsibility and oversight.
2. Describe and specify the nominee's individual role with regard to the corporation's or law firm's efforts to advance and promote the full and equal participation of racially and ethnically diverse lawyers in the broader legal profession.
3. Describe the impact that the corporations' or law firm's diversity efforts and accomplishments have had in advancing and promoting the full and equal participation of racially and ethnically diverse lawyers in the broader legal profession.
4. Describe any other efforts made by the nominee individually to promote diversity or in the profession.