

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF APPELLATE LAWYERS
KATHLEEN MCCREE LEWIS AWARD FOR APPELLATE JUSTICE

Purpose of Award: To honor an individual who, or group that, has made a contribution that has had an exceptional impact on the delivery of appellate justice. By recognizing such contributions, the AAAL hopes to call positive attention to the societal importance of the functions of appellate courts, and to recognize extraordinary excellence and significant contributions to the appellate process.

History of Award: This award was created in honor of AAAL's past president Kathleen McCree Lewis, who died shortly after completing her term as AAAL president. The Academy's Board of Directors wanted to recognize Kathleen's warmth, elegance, and especially her devotion to appellate justice, as well as to acknowledge the inspiring contributions of her predecessors and successors in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

Frequency of Award: Annual.

Potential Recipients: Individual judges or justices, entire courts, court administrators, law professors, and lawyers, active or retired within the past three years.

Specific Criteria:

1. The recipient has been nominated for the Award by at least one active member of AAAL
2. The recipient is making or has made in the past three years a contribution to the delivery of appellate justice consistent with the purpose of the award.

Selection Procedure: AAAL members will be invited to submit nominations on a form to be available on the AAAL website no later than February 1 of the year preceding the award. ***For 2009 deadline is extended to March 1st.***

The nominating committee will meet in person or by telephone during the month of March, review all applications, and determine what investigation is required. The committee will thereafter investigate the nominees, and confer again by telephone before May 1 to rank the nominees for the year.

The chair of the nominating committee will notify the AAAL president of the qualified nominees and their rankings. The Board

of Directors will select the highest-ranking nominee to receive the award unless two-thirds vote of the directors participating select the next-highest rated nominee from the list provided by the committee.

If the highest-ranked recipient declines the award, the award shall be given to the next highest rated nominee on the list.

The President shall thereafter notify the award recipient of the award, and arrange for appropriate publicity, no later than May 15 preceding presentation of the award.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee will consist of one past president of AAAL, two current board members, and two AAAL members who have not served on the board of directors. Each member of the review committee shall be a person who has attended at least two of the four AAAL meetings preceding appointment to the committee.

Each member of the nominating committee will serve no longer than three years (except that one member of the initial nominating committee will be appointed for one year only, and two members for two years only, so that there will always be experienced members on future committees).

Award Procedure: The President of the Academy will notify the Award recipient at least four months in advance of the next AAAL Fall meeting, and invite the recipient to attend the meeting with a spouse or significant other. AAAL will provide travel and accommodations.

Endowment for Award: The AAAL maintains an endowment for the purpose of funding honorees' travel and accommodations to the award presentation created with contributions to AAAL in memory of Kathleen McCree Lewis.