

Award Descriptions, Criteria and Nomination Requirements

WBASNY Awards

Betty Weinberg Ellerin Mentor Award (WBASNY)

This award was established in honor of one of our founding members, the Honorable Betty Weinberg Ellerin, former Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department. Through the years, Justice Ellerin has served as a mentor, teacher, guide and trusted counselor to hundreds of attorneys and judges, including WBASNY officers and members. The inaugural award was given to Justice Ellerin in honor of her generous spirit and willingness to provide creative ideas and supportive solutions. The Officers have the discretion to bestow this award on such occasions as they determine that there is a member who has continuously served as a mentor and role model, providing advice, support and guidance to the members of WBASNY.

Doris S. Hoffman Medal (WBASNY)

This medal is given to a WBASNY member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to women lawyers in New York State. The Executive Board, rather than the Awards Committee, awards this medal on such occasions as it determines that there is a member who qualifies. For five years, the donor will make a contribution in the name of Doris S. Hoffman to a charity selected by the medal recipient. Thereafter, WBASNY may choose to fund the contribution or seek other donors.

Doris S. Hoffman Outstanding New Lawyer Award (WBASNY)

This award is given to a WBASNY member who, as of the December 31st prior to the convention at which the award will be presented, has been a member of the bar for not more than five (5) years, and who has made outstanding achievements within the profession, outstanding contributions within the WBASNY member's community, or both. The award is named in honor of WBASNY's 1994-1995 President, who encouraged new lawyers to become active contributors to their profession and community and showed them how to do so.

Hanna S. Cohn Pro Bono Award (WBASNY)

This award is given to a WBASNY member for contributions to the provision of pro bono legal services to the community in which the member practices, beyond the recipient's employment responsibilities.

Joan L. Ellenbogen Founder's Award (WBASNY)

This award is given to a distinguished member of the bar whose acts exemplify the essence of justice, thereby demonstrating a harmony with the founding principles of WBASNY, for a singular outstanding achievement, longstanding significant involvement, of a lifetime of constancy of purpose in advancing the status of women in society and the law.

Marilyn R. Menge Award (WBASNY)

This award is given to an outstanding member of WBASNY who has made valuable and significant contributions to a chapter or the statewide organization. The award is named in honor of a member whose work, wherever she was needed in WBASNY, ensured its early success and who was a founding member of the Capital District Chapter.

Stephanie E. Kupferman Juvenile Justice Award (WBASNY)

Established and endowed by the Honorable Theodore R. Kupferman in 1999, and named in honor of WBASNY member, Stephanie E. Kupferman, this award is given to a WBASNY member who has shown outstanding achievement in legal matters involving juveniles over a period of three or more years, as a prosecutor, defense counsel or law guardian or judge.

Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award (WBASNY)

This award honors a member who demonstrates the core values to which former Court of Appeals Chief Judge Kaye steadfastly adhered in order to ensure that there would be equal access to justice and that justice was carried out, in part, through service, good will and professionalism. Those eligible for consideration are WBASNY members who are current or former State or Federal public sector employees, including, but not limited to, members of the judiciary (this is broadly defined to include Support Magistrates, Law Clerks, etc. not just judges), prosecutors, public defenders, county attorneys, 18-b counsel, CJAs, etc.(Established in late 2008 and first awarded at the 2010 convention.)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award (WBASNY)

The Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award is presented to honor the incomparable United States Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg for her unwavering dedication to equality under the law and to recognize the significance of her work on women's rights. The awardee must embody the spirit of Justice Ginsburg by working to promote fairness and gender equality, to eradicate gender bias and to ensure justice for women. The awardee's qualifications, experience and service should foster Justice Ginsburg's towering efforts to eradicate gender bias and to ensure justice for women.

This award is presented to a WBASNY member and /or a person/entity or organization that need not be a lawyer or law firm. The award will be presented based on nominations to the WBASNY Awards Committee by the chapter, advisory, or officers. The committee will meet and make determinations as to whether there should be an award annually and determine the awardee, which nomination will then be validated by the Board.