



Palm Beach County Bar Association
Committee for Diversity & Inclusion

JUDGE EDWARD RODGERS CHAMPION OF FREEDOM AWARD

The Palm Beach County Bar Association's Committee for Diversity and Inclusion will present the **Judge Edward Rodgers Champion of Freedom Award** at the annual Bench Bar Conference. The recipient should be a Palm Beach County Bar Association member or an organization which:

1. Consistently exhibits a spirit of commitment to fairness in the development, recruitment, retention, and promotion of all people who are members of, or who are seeking to enter, the legal profession.
2. Cultivates and promotes initiatives to preserve **freedom and opportunity** for all within the legal community.
3. Defends and promotes freedom to facilitate education, community outreach, and social engagement with and between people of all ethnic or religious backgrounds, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and/or physical and mental capabilities so that all individuals can enter and prosper in the legal field.
4. Exhibits brave, courageous, visionary and/or insightful leadership to confront and oppose discrimination, exclusion, and inequity, and to resolve injustices through strategic collaboration, sharing of resources and ideas, and establishment of priorities that enhance **freedom and opportunity for all**.
5. Actively pursues goals, action steps, and initiatives to ensure **freedom** and fair access to opportunity at all levels of the legal profession and community at large.
6. Is passionate about advancing equal **access to, and knowledge of**, the legal system and a free and fair Constitutional democracy.
7. Has implemented and demonstrated best practices that support **freedom and opportunity** within the legal community.

*Individual Members of the Board of Directors and the Committee for Diversity & Inclusion are ineligible for this award.

*Although the committee acknowledges, supports, and appreciates the work of organizations whose main objective is to promote diversity, such organizations are ineligible for this award.

*The person and/or organization must be in Palm Beach County, and the criteria above must have been achieved in Palm Beach County.



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Judge Edward Rodgers Champion of Freedom Award Application

The Palm Beach County Bar Association's Committee for Diversity & Inclusion will present the Judge Edward Rodgers Diversity Award at the annual Bar Conference. The application must be received in the office of the Palm Beach County Bar Association by 5:00 p.m. on **January 9, 2026**. Please mail the application to PBCBA, P.O. Box 17726, West Palm Beach, FL 33416, or send it via email to Michelle Gale at mgale@palmbeachbar.org

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.

Nominator's Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Nominee's Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Using the form below, please provide detailed answers to the following questions. Please provide supporting documentation, if available.

*The Committee for Diversity & Inclusion will make the final decision as to the recipient and the award does not require approval from the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Board of Directors.

*All nominators will be invited to attend and present their nominations to the CDI Committee.

1. What continuous efforts have the nominee made to promote and support fairness in the development, recruitment, and promotion of all people seeking to enter the legal profession?

2. What specific steps have the nominee taken to facilitate education, community outreach, and social engagement with and between people of all ethnic or religious backgrounds, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and/or physical and mental capabilities so that all individuals can enter and prosper in the legal field?

3. How has the nominee implemented and demonstrated best practices that support freedom and opportunity within the legal community? Please provide specific examples.

4. Please provide any additional information you wish to be considered.

Nominator's Signature _____ Date _____

Date received in Bar Office

PREVIOUS WINNERS: **2012:** Greenberg Traurig; **2013:** Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley; **2014:** Shutts & Bowen; **2015:** John M. Howe; **2016:** Scott Hawkins; **2017:** Gary Lesser; **2018:** Julie Anne Rico; **2019:** Judge Bradley Harper; **2020:** Manuel Farach; **2021:** Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes; **2022:** Judge Luis Delgado; **2023:** Michael Gelfand; **2024:** Judge W. Matthew Stevenson; **2025:** Alexcia Cox