

MICHAEL K. LEE MEMORIAL AWARD RECOGNIZING DIVERSITY

Sponsored By

Oakland County Bar Association – Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee

Established

2015

Purpose

To celebrate diversity and to promote an awareness of the need for increased diversity in the legal profession by honoring an individual, law firm, legal service, or other law-related organization (“award recipient”) that has a demonstrated record of promoting cultural diversity in the legal community through its participation in pipeline programs and through their commitment to the tenets set forth in the mission¹ statement of the Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee.

To recognize attorney Michael K. Lee’s commitment to the Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee’s mission statement as well as its commitment to promoting participation in the activities and governance of the OCBA of lawyers representing the full array of diversity. Specifically, this award recognizes an award recipient who not only expresses a desire to achieve diversity in the legal profession but also actively works in various pipeline programs committed to introducing individuals with diverse backgrounds to the legal profession.

Awarded

- The award will be presented at the biennial Diversity in the Legal Profession Dinner.
- The award recipient will be subsequently recognized at the OCBA Annual Meeting along with the other award recipients.

Criteria

- The award recipient actively participates in one or more pipeline programs² and that participation exists for a minimum of three years.

¹ The mission of the Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee is to increase awareness in the Oakland County legal community of the need to provide equal opportunity for all lawyers and support personnel through education and programs sponsored by the Oakland County Bar Association and in collaboration with other legal organizations, and to promote participation in the activities and governance of the Oakland County Bar Association of lawyers with all varieties of diverse backgrounds.

² Examples of pipeline programs that OCBA or its members participate in are:

- The Law Related Education Committee coordinates the Elementary Mock Trial program with second- through sixth-grade teachers.
- The Law Related Education Committee hosts a Constitution Day program at Pontiac middle schools.
- Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School students participate in a program called Success on Saturday.
- The Diversity Committee participates in a Just the Beginning Foundation (“JTBF”) event hosted by United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, which is held at Oakland University.
- Street Law and General Motors Corporation (Detroit) partnered together to increase student knowledge and interest in the law and legal careers.
- The Diversity Committee participates in the College Pre-law Summer Institute, which is co-sponsored by CLEO, Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School (“Cooley Law School”), and Oakland University.

- The award recipient takes a leadership role in the implementation and development of pipeline (or similar) programs that provide equal opportunity for all individuals seeking a career in the legal profession to gain exposure to the same.
- The award recipient actively works with other legal organizations to promote participation in pipeline programs that support all facets of diversity in the legal profession.
- The award recipient provides mentorship to an individual with a diverse background and encourages that individual's participation in a pipeline program and pursuit of a career in the legal profession.

How to Nominate

Letter of Nomination includes a description of nominee's community service supporting diversity and pipeline programming.

Selection Process

The Oakland County Bar Association's Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee or its designee selects the awardee.

Past Recipients

2015 John R. Nussbaumer