MIAMI DADE BAR
DAVID W. DYER PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

Nominating Form and Instructions

Established in 1997, the David W. Dyer Professionalism Award is the most important award given by the Miami Dade Bar. It is awarded annually to the lawyer or judge whose conduct most closely reflects and honors the integrity, humility, compassion, and professionalism of Judge Dyer himself.

Judge David W. Dyer, a name partner in the firm of Smathers, Dyer & Thompson, and for whom the historic downtown Miami post office and current federal court is named, was nominated to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy.

Judge Dyer became Chief Judge in 1962. While serving as a district judge, Judge Dyer issued a landmark decision to desegregate the restaurants which serve travelers on Florida's Turnpike. In 1966, Judge Dyer was elevated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. There, Judge Dyer presided over several important civil rights and voting rights cases, including a ruling in 1967 to reapportion Florida on the "one-man, one-vote" principle.

Judge Dyer is a former member of the board of governors and executive committee of the Florida Bar, as well as the board of governors of the Maritime Law Association. He also served as president of the Miami Dade Bar (formerly Dade County Bar Association).

Judge Dyer's qualities and contributions were enumerated in the United States House of Representatives upon Judge Dyer's passing in 1998:

> ***"Community leaders across South Florida are at a loss today because they have lost their leader, mentor, and role model. For many, Judge Dyer is nothing short of a hero. During a time of great national struggle, he consistently advocated and maintained that the Constitution guaranteed equality for all Americans--no matter what their race. To put it simply, he was Florida's most respected jurist.***
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> ***His loss is not only a personal one, but one to the entire U.S. Judiciary. How long will it be until someone else with his compassion and understanding will grace our presence again?" - Hon. Alcee L. Hastings, Congressional Record, June 9, 1998, E1067***

Previous winners of the David W. Dyer Professionalism Award are:

1997	Hon. David W. Dyer	2009	Hon. Phillip A. Hubbart
1998	Hon. William Hoeveler	2010	HT Smith
1999	Leland E. Stansell, Jr.	2011	Irwin J. Block
2000	Hon. Edward B. Davis	2012	Hon. Alan Gold
2001	Robert C. Josefsberg	2013	Edith Osman
2002	Hon. Gerald Kogan	2014	David B. Rothman
2003	Hon. Philip Bloom	2015	Stephen N. Zack
2004	Herman J. Russomanno	2016	Alan G. Greer
2005	Hon. Joseph P. Farina	2017	Hon. Kathleen Williams
2006	Hon. Peter R. Palermo	2018	Joseph H. Serota
2007	Richard C. Milstein	2019	Marilyn J .Holifield
2008	Hon. Janet Reno	2020	Hon. Steve Leifman
2021	Melba Pearson	2022	Richard Baron
2023	Cheryl Little	2024	Hon. Gill S. Freeman (Ret.)
2025	Robert L. Parks	2026	John W. Kozyak

Requirements and Guidelines

- Nominations may be made of any public or private lawyer or federal or state judge who has been a member of the Florida Bar for ten (10) years.
- **Nominations are due by February 19, 2027** to: Russell S. Jacobs, Co-Chair, Scott Merl Co-Chair, Miami-Dade Bar Association, 251 Valencia Ave, #143303, Coral Gables, FL 33114. You may also submit your nomination via email to the Bar Association: bret@miamidadebar.org
- Nominations must be supported by the signatures (and printed names) of seven (7) members of the Florida Bar in good standing:

1. Letters of Support/Recommendation

a. Letters of recommendation are not required but are strongly encouraged.
b. Letters of recommendation should contain information similar to that required in the application which indicates why the nominee is deserving of the award.
c. Letters of recommendation should include personal reflections or experiences with nominee and give specific examples of the nominee's worthiness to receive the award.
d. There is no limit to the number of letters of recommendation which may be included in the nomination.

2. Secondary Source Material (other than Letters of Recommendation)

a. Secondary source material, although allowed, is not as strongly encouraged as letters of recommendation.
b. Information contained in secondary source material should, if possible, be distilled or encompassed into the responses to the questions on the nomination form.
c. Secondary source material should contain information similar to that required in the application which indicates why the nominee is deserving of the award.
d. There is a limit of 10 pages of secondary source material.
e. Secondary source material will not be returned.

3. Presentation

All persons making nominations will have an opportunity to telephonically present a brief statement (no longer than three (3) minutes) describing why the nominee is deserving of the award. To coordinate your oral presentation please contact Bret Berlin at bret@miamidadebar.org

4. Evaluation of Nominations

In determining the winner of the David W. Dyer Professionalism Award, the Miami Dade Bar pays more attention to the quality of the information provided about the nominee than the quantity of the information provided. It is not expected that a nominee will have examples or specific experience in every area contained in the nomination form. However, any specific experience that the nominee possesses in any of the areas is more instructive than the actual number of areas.

NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are due by February 19, 2027

Nominee's **Name:**_____

Address:_____

Telephone: _____ Facsimile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Nominator's **Name:** _____

Address:_____

Telephone: _____ Facsimile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Nominations must be supported by the signatures (and printed names) of seven (7) members of the Florida Bar in good standing:

1. _____ Fla. Bar. No. _____

   Printed Name: _____

2. _____ Fla. Bar. No. _____

   Printed Name: _____

3. _____ Fla. Bar. No. _____

   Printed Name: _____

4. _____ Fla. Bar. No. _____

   Printed Name: _____

5. _____ Fla. Bar. No. _____

   Printed Name: _____

6. _____ Fla. Bar. No. _____

   Printed Name: _____

7. _____ Fla. Bar. No. _____

   Printed Name: _____

1. Indicate specific examples of the nominee's commitment to honor and integrity as a member of the Miami Dade County legal community that would support the nominee's receiving the Dyer Award.

2. Provide specific examples of the nominee's adherence to the creed of the Florida Bar and to the standards set forth in the Miami Dade Bar Association's Code of Professionalism and Civility (attached).

3. Provide specific examples of the nominee's commitment to community service, or efforts to enrich the community as a whole.

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4. Provide specific examples of the nominee's recognition by peers, colleagues or fellow attorneys related to professionalism.

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5. Provide specific examples of the nominee's promotion of public confidence in the legal profession.

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6. Provide specific examples of the nominee's commitment to Pro Bono or reduced fee services.

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7. Provide any other information that you believe would assist the committee in determining the nominee's worthiness to receive the Dyer Award.

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* *Add additional pages, if necessary.*

MIAMI DADE BAR CODE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND CIVILITY

PREAMBLE

Honor and integrity are the essence and an indispensable part of our profession. It is not enough to speak of honor or profess integrity. In the end, a personal commitment to honor and integrity must be established. Professionalism may no longer be relegated to a secondary topic and/or study that is then summarily filed away. We must acknowledge the responsibilities we have to society and each other. We

as attorneys pledge to practice law in an honorable manner and devote ourselves to this Code of Professionalism and Civility.

AS A PROFESSIONAL, I WILL ALWAYS:

- Remember that my responsibilities include a devotion to the public good, respect for the civil rights and sensibilities of others, and a willingness to provide pro bono or reduced fee services where appropriate.
- Exercise courtesy and civility in all communications and avoid rudeness and other acts of disrespect.
- Avoid personal criticism of another lawyer.
- Set a good example for and assist newer members of the bar.
- Consider the effect of my conduct and deportment on the image of lawyers and the system of justice.
- Counsel clients about alternative forms of dispute resolution where appropriate and available.
- Avoid non-essential litigation and non-essential pleadings in litigation.
- Communicate with opposing counsel in an effort to avoid litigation and to attempt to resolve litigation that has commenced.
- Attempt to resolve by non-coerced agreement my objections to matters contained in my opponent's pleadings and discovery requests.
- Prevent misuses of court time by verifying the availability of key participants for scheduled appearances before the court.
- Stipulate to facts in civil matters as to which there is no genuine dispute.
- Speak or write courteously and respectfully in all communications with the court or tribunal and show my respect by my attire and demeanor.
- Exercise candor with the court at all times and act with complete honesty.
- Attempt to determine compatible dates with opposing counsel before scheduling motions, meetings, and depositions.
- Avoid serving motions and pleadings in such a manner or at such a time as to harass opposing counsel or preclude an opportunity for a competent response.
- Attempt to resolve any dispute with opposing counsel prior to filing any notice or scheduling any hearing.
- Identify clearly all changes made in documents submitted to opposing counsel for review.
- Respect the commitments of others by striving to always be punctual.
- Remember that the conflict is between the clients and not the lawyers.
- Respond promptly to all requests by opposing counsel.
- Counsel clients about the value of cooperation and compromise in the resolution of disputes.
- Advise clients against pursuing litigation or other actions that are without merit or intended merely to harass, delay, or exhaust the financial resources of the opposing party.
- Reach clear agreements, preferably in writing, with clients concerning the nature of the representation and the fees to be charged.
- Keep clients advised as to the progress of their matter and communicate promptly and clearly with clients.
- Strive to achieve my client's goals expeditiously, and at a reasonable fee.
- Recognize that uncivil conduct does not advance and may compromise the rights of my clients.