



WHITE PAPER ON OECS BAR AWARDS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The OECS Bar Awards is established by the OECS Bar Association Inc. and is intended to recognise, honour and celebrate legal luminaries and outstanding contributors to the development of the legal profession within the jurisdiction of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.
- 1.2 The Awards will be presented at the OECS Law Conference.

2. THE AWARDS

2.1 HON. JUSTICE IAN DONALDSON MITCHELL CBE, KC AWARD FOR PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

2.1.1 ABOUT THE AWARD

This Award for Pro Bono Legal Services will recognize contributions and achievements by members of the OECS Bar Association in the practice, promotion or enhancement of, or leadership in, pro bono legal services. One award may be given annually.

2.1.2 ELIGIBILITY

Any Member in good standing of the OECS Bar Association or of a constituent bar is eligible for the Award, except a Member of the current Executive of the OECS Bar Association or the Awards Selection Committee.

2.1.3 CRITERIA

The award recognizes one or more of the following:

- the demonstration of outstanding skills in the provision of pro bono legal services;
- exceptional contributions to the community through the provision of pro bono legal services;
- facilitating or encouraging the provision of pro bono legal services through:
 - (a) the development and implementation of projects, procedures or opportunities in the area of pro bono legal services;
 - (b) advocating for legislation or policy that promotes, facilitates or encourages pro bono legal services or
 - (c) acting as a mentor, leader or role model to peers and young lawyers to further the provision of pro bono legal services

2.2 SIR TAPLEY SEATON KC AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CONSTITUTIONAL AND/OR HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

2.2.1 ABOUT THE AWARD

This award is established to recognise, honour, and celebrate the outstanding achievement of lawyers practising in the OECS in the Constitutional and Human Rights law area. One Award shall be given each year.

2.2.2 ELIGIBILITY

This award is open to all OECS BAR or constituent bar members in good standing who are practising lawyers of Constitutional or Human Rights Law, excluding current members of the Executive or members of the Awards Selection Committee.

2.2.3 CRITERIA

This Award was created to recognize exceptional contributions and achievements by a lawyer practising in the Constitutional and/or Human Rights Law, including:-

- excellence in the practice of human rights law or constitutional law
- mentorship of other lawyers and law students in the area of human rights and constitutional law
- contributions to the development of human rights and constitutional law, including through academic scholarship, teaching and continuing legal education at the OECS Bar Association or other organizations on constitutional or human rights law

2.3 OECS BAR ASSOCIATION'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CRIMINAL LAW

2.3.1 ABOUT THE AWARD

The award recognizes outstanding contribution to the advancement of criminal law.

2.3.2 ELIGIBILITY

The following are standard criteria and must apply to the award:

- There is one criminal justice section award.
- An eligible candidate must be an OECS Bar Association Member in good standing.
- An eligible candidate cannot be a member of the current executive, or the Awards Selection Committee.

2.3.3 CRITERIA: The recipient shall demonstrate leadership in the criminal law bar through knowledge, experience, skill, commitment, passion, strength of character, and all or some of the following:

- Contribution to legal education and professional development including, but not limited to, lecturing at law schools, participation in continuing legal education programs, and academic or professional writing
- A member of the OECS Bar Association or a constituent bar in good standing
- Leadership in the criminal justice bar by acting as a role model and mentor for new members of the profession and to his or her peers

- Contribution to the community through pro bono work or other projects or initiatives
- Contribution as counsel or as a judge to the development of the criminal law legislative framework

2.4 **THE OECS BAR ASSOCIATION'S AWARD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION OR FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

2.4.1 ABOUT THE AWARD

The award recognizes exceptional contributions and/or achievements by a lawyer in the field of continuing legal education or development of the law for the benefit of the profession or the citizens of the OECS, or in the persons individual jurisdiction.

2.4.2 ELIGIBILITY: Any person, who, at the time that the person is nominated for the award, meets the following criteria:

- is a member of the OECS Bar or a constituent bar, in good standing;
- has practiced law in any state or territory within the jurisdiction of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court OECS or taught law in any educational institution within the OECS

2.4.3 CRITERIA: The contribution or achievement may, for example and without limitation, relate to authorship, presentation, innovation, organization or delivery of programs or materials in respect of continuing legal education, professional development or law reform.

3. **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

3.1 Composition - The Selection Committee comprises six persons:

- Court of Appeal Judge (retired or sitting)
- One (1) Executive Member of the OECS Bar who is to Chair, with a vote and a casting vote if there is a tie.
- Two (2) Bar Association Presidents
- One (1) silk from the jurisdiction hosting the OECS Bar's Annual Law Conference and if the Conference is not being hosted in the OECS then a silk appointed by the OECS Bar Council
- A lawyer selected by the OECS Bar Executive with a minimum of 10 years practice

3.2 Appointment – The Selection Committee shall serve for two years and shall be appointed as follows:

- The Court of Appeal Judge shall be selected by the CJ from among sitting or retired judges of the ECSC
- Presidents of Constituent Bars shall become members in alphabetical order.
- OECS Bar is to write to the host constituent Bar to inform them to select the silk to be a member.
- Member of the Executive Committee of the OECS Bar Council who shall be Chair and shall have a casting vote

- 3.3 The procedures and process of the Selection Committee shall be determined by the Committee.

4. NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

4.1 The nomination process:-

- (a) A candidate must be nominated by two (2) OECS Bar Association members in (financial) good standing.
- (b) The nominators must submit a paragraph of a maximum 1000 words outlining why they feel the candidate deserves the award.
- (c) The nomination must be accompanied by a copy of the nominee's CV and a list of publications.
- (d) The nomination may be accompanied by up to five (5) supporting letters.
- (e) The nominator shall submit his/her nomination to the Secretary of the OECS Bar Association, along with the name of the Nominee, the year of call for the Nominee. The submission shall be copied to the Secretary of the Constituent Bar.
- (f) If the Nominee accepts the nomination he or she shall do so in writing, submitting the acceptance along with a certificate of good standing from its Constituent Bar Association and their consent to the disclosure by the Bar Association of any disciplinary matters which are ongoing and unresolved or resolved with a negative outcome for the nominee.

4.2 The selection process:

- (a) The OECS Bar shall compile and forward all nominations and supporting documents to the members of the Selection Committee;
- (b) The Chair of the Selection Committee shall be responsible for convening the members of the Committee.
- (c) The Selection Committee may request that the Bar Council of the Constituent Bar expresses its views and/or provide feedback (in writing) on the Nominee;
- (d) The Selection Committee has exclusive discretion to select the winner of each award, and shall inform the President of the OECS Bar of its selection.

4.3 Forfeiture

- (a) The award may be forfeited by the OECS Bar Council if the Awardee commits any act which brings the OECS Bar into disrepute.

5. RECOGNITION

The awardee will be recognised by

- (a) The winner will be announced at the OECS Law Conference next following the nomination
- (b) A glass plaque or other distinguished commemorative item will be presented to the winner.
- (c) A plaque listing all winners of each award will be displayed at the OECS Bar Association's secretariat.