



OBA CRIMINAL LAW SECTION PROFESSIONAL ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Criminal Law Section seeks nominations for its prestigious "**Professional Advocate of the Year**" awards. These awards will be presented to the Prosecutor and the Defense Attorney who best exemplify the criteria listed below. Nominations may be made by any member of the bar, *even if you are not a member of the Criminal Law Section of the OBA*. Prosecutors nominate Defense Attorneys and Defense Attorneys nominate Prosecutors.

Defense Attorney – Professional Advocate of the Year: The recipient must be an Oklahoma attorney who practices criminal defense (in federal, state, or tribal courts) in Oklahoma and is recognized as an ethical and professional advocate who defends and protects the constitutional rights of his/her client. The recipient should exhibit superior advocacy skills before the court, either at the trial or appellate level, and consistently show professionalism, courtesy, and respect to opposing counsel in the spirit of the adversarial system.

Prosecutor – Professional Advocate of the Year: The recipient must be an Oklahoma attorney who represents the government in criminal prosecutions (in federal, state, or tribal courts) in Oklahoma and is recognized as an ethical and professional prosecutor who exercises prosecutorial discretion in an equitable manner toward the community. The recipient should exhibit superior advocacy skills before the court, either at the trial or appellate level, and consistently show professionalism, courtesy, and respect to opposing counsel in the spirit of the adversarial system.

Professional Judicial Award: Honorable Donald L. Deason Judicial Award

Defense attorneys, prosecutors, and judges may submit nominations for an Oklahoma or Tenth Circuit Judge known for character, dedication, and professional excellence.

Submission Guidelines:

- Defense attorneys nominating the **Prosecutor Professional Advocate of the Year Award** should send nominations to Mike Wilds, wilds@nsuok.edu.
- Prosecutors nominating the **Defense Professional Advocate of the Year Award** should send nominations to Trent Baggett, slamminsammy@cox.net.
- Prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges may send nominations for the **Honorable Donald L. Deason Judicial Award** to either Trent or Mike.

Support any nomination with a short letter noting anecdotes or individual achievements that substantiate the nomination. **Submissions must be received by Monday, June 30. Recipients will be recognized at the Annual Forensics Academy Seminar, to be held on Friday, Aug. 8, at UCO.** Contact Mike Wilds at wilds@nsuok.edu for more details about the seminar.