



# 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 (federal, state, or tribal) in Oklahoma and is recognized as an ethical and professional advocate who defends and protects the constitutional rights of his/her individual 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 (federal, state, or tribal) in Oklahoma and is recognized as an ethical and professional prosecutor who exercises prosecutorial discretion in an equitable manner towards the community as a whole. 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**

Defense attorneys, prosecutors, and judges may also submit nominations for the **Honorable Donald L. Deason Judicial Award** to any federal, state, or tribal court judge; any appellate court judge in Oklahoma including any federal district court judge or Tenth Circuit judge, who is 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 at wilds@nsuok.edu.
- Prosecutors nominating the **Defense Professional Advocate of the Year Award** should send nominations to Trent Baggett at Slamminsammy@cox.net.
- Prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges may send nominations for the **Honorable Donald L. Deason Judicial Award** to either Trent Baggett or Mike Wilds.

Be sure to support any nomination with a short letter that includes any anecdotes or individual achievements that serve to substantiate the nomination. **Submissions must be received by June 15th, 2026. Recipients will be recognized at the Annual Forensics Academy Seminar, scheduled for Friday, Aug. 7, 2026, at the University of Central Oklahoma. Lunch is included with the Seminar.**



















