



WLA ACT WOMEN LAWYERS AWARDS 2018

NOMINATION PACK

- Woman Lawyer of the Year
- Firm/Organisation of the Year
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Private
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Government
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Community or Academic
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander and/or Culturally & Linguistically Diverse
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Early Career
- Woman Barrister of the Year

WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ACT

PO BOX 2032 | CANBERRA | ACT 2601

The Women Lawyers Association of the ACT ('WLA ACT') is proud to present the Women Lawyers Awards 2018. The awards recognise and celebrate the remarkable achievements of women lawyers in the ACT and Region and is in furtherance of WLA ACT's goals to 'Connect. Support. Engage'.

The awards will be judged by an independent selection committee comprised of:

- The Honourable Justice Chrissa Loukas-Karlsson of the ACT Supreme Court
- The Honourable Justice Hilary Penfold
- Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Deputy Chief Minister of the ACT and ACT Minister for Women
- Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, ACT Attorney-General
- Ms Heidi Yates, ACT Victim of Crimes Commissioner
- President of WLA ACT (or nominee)

The award recipients will be announced at a Gala Dinner on 26 October 2018 at Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia with journalist and advocate Tracey Spicer as guest speaker.

Award categories

For the Women Lawyers Awards 2018, nominations will be sought in the following award categories:

- Woman Lawyer of the Year
- Firm/Organisation of the Year
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Private
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Government
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Community or Academic
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander and/or Culturally & Linguistically Diverse
- Woman Lawyer of the Year – Early Career
- Woman Barrister of the Year

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Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria apply to all award categories (except Firm/Organisation of the Year):

- Nominees must be Australian Lawyers (as that term is defined in the *Legal Profession Act 2006 (ACT)*).
- Nominees do not need to be members of the WLA ACT.
- Nominees must be women (gender diverse people are encouraged to apply).
- Nominees must work predominantly in ACT or surrounding towns ('Region').
- Nominees must be individuals and not be a group or couple, although in exceptional cases the selection committee reserves the right to consider such nominations.
- Nominees must not be the WLA ACT President, the Chair of the WLA ACT Awards Subcommittee, or any other member of the selection committee for the awards.
- Nominees may be members of the WLA ACT Committee (excluding the President and the Chair of the Awards Subcommittee) however they must abstain from involvement in checking eligibility criteria of nominations to proceed to the selection committee and any other processes relating to the awards.

We strongly encourage applications for all categories from women of diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with disabilities, and people from LGBTIQ+ communities.

The following additional eligibility criteria apply to individual award categories:

- **Woman Lawyer of the Year:** nil.
- **Firm/Organisation of the Year:** Nominees must have an office located in the ACT or Region and employ, or have as a partner or director, at least one Australian lawyer in that office.
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year – Private:** nominees must work in either a private law firm or as in-house counsel in a private entity
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year – Government:** nominees must work in either Government (excluding ACT Legal Aid) or a statutory body.
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year – Community or Academic:** nominees must work in either a community or not-for-profit organisation or ACT Legal Aid or an academic institution.

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- **Woman Lawyer of the Year – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse:** nominees must identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and/or as having a specific cultural or linguistic affiliation by virtue of their place of birth, ancestry, ethnic origin, or preferred language spoken at home (which is not Anglo-Saxon/Celtic English-speaking).
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year – Early Career:** nominees must have been working in the legal profession for 5 or less years.
- **Woman Barrister of the Year:** nominees must be practising as a barrister in the ACT.

Selection criteria

The Selection Committee will consider the nominee's achievements in the following criteria in the respective award category or categories for which the nominee is nominated:

- **Skill:** the extent to which the nominee has attained a high level of professional skill or excellence in the nominee's chosen legal field, and the degree of difficulty of the nominee's achievements.
- **Encouragement:** the extent to which the nominee encourages and promotes and/or provides an inspirational role model for women within, or aspiring to, the legal profession.
- **Influence:** the extent to which the nominee has been involved in, engaged with, and/or demonstrated leadership within the legal community and/or the wider community.
- **Altruism:** the extent to which the nominee's contribution has been voluntary or largely uncompensated.
- **Advocacy:** the extent to which the nominee demonstrates an understanding of and support for the legal rights of all women and/or the promotion of justice and equality for all women and/or the identification, publicity and eradication of discrimination against women.
- **Innovation:** the extent to which the nominee has contributed towards reform of the legal profession or of the law and its administration.

Nominees do not necessarily need to demonstrate achievements in all 6 criteria. For example, the selection committee may consider that a nominee has demonstrated particularly outstanding achievements in one or two criteria sufficient to warrant selection for an award.

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Process for submitting nominations

Nominations must be submitted by email to awards@wlaact.org.au no later than **31 August 2018**. The deadline for nominations to be submitted may be changed at the discretion of the committee of WLA ACT and upon notice to its members by email and to the public by its website and Facebook page. Late submissions will not be considered.

Nominations may be submitted by a nominee or by another person ('nominator') who seeks to nominate the nominee. The nominee must agree to be nominated.

Nominations must be contained in a **single Microsoft Word or PDF document** (excluding the photo) and include:

- name, employer/organisation and contact details for the nominee and (if applicable) the nominator;
- a short (100 word) profile of the nominee;
- the award category or categories for which the nominee is nominated;
- a statement signed by the nominee (or in the case of a firm/organisation, an authorised representative) stating that the nominee consents to being nominated and to the nominee's name and photograph/logo being published by WLA ACT in relation to the nomination and the awards;
- a statement (of minimum 1 page and maximum 3 pages) demonstrating the nominee's satisfaction of (i) the eligibility criteria; and (ii) the selection criteria;
- a photograph of the nominee or in the case of a firm/organisation, its logo (provided as a separate file/attachment);
- **(optional)** up to 2 additional documents supporting the nominee's satisfaction of any of (i) the eligibility criteria; or (ii) the selection criteria.

The nomination must be complete at the time of submission. Additional material lodged after submission of the nomination will not be considered, unless it has been specifically requested by the selection committee.

The same application may be used to nominate nominees for more than one category. Please ensure the categories are clearly set out in the nomination.

All material lodged as part of a nomination will remain confidential to the selection committee. No material will be returned to nominators or nominees.

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Selection committee

The selection committee shall consist of the following:

- The Honourable Justice Chrissa Loukas-Karlsson of the ACT Supreme Court
- The Honourable Justice Hilary Penfold
- Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Deputy Chief Minister of the ACT and ACT Minister for Women
- Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, ACT Attorney-General
- Ms Heidi Yates, ACT Victim of Crimes Commissioner
- President of WLA ACT (or nominee)

WLA ACT reserves the right to alter the members of the selection committee should an existing member become unavailable.

Once the closing date for nominations has passed, the Committee of WLA ACT will check that nominations meet the relevant eligibility criteria. Any nominations failing to meet the eligibility criteria will not proceed to be considered by the selection committee.

Those nominations which meet the relevant eligibility criteria will be provided to the selection committee which will assess the nominations against the selection criteria using such method as the selection committee, in its discretion, determines to be appropriate. The selection committee may, in its discretion, request further information about a nominee from the person who has submitted the nomination.

The selection committee will make any decision by majority vote and any deliberation of the selection committee will be confidential. The decision of the selection committee will be final. The selection committee may decide in its discretion not to make an award in any or all categories. The selection committee will select the award recipients before 26 October 2018.

Announcement of winners

The award recipients will be announced at the Gala Dinner on **26 October 2018** at Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia.

Tickets for the Gala Dinner will be available to purchase from early August.

Further information

Contact WLA ACT Committee at contact@wlaact.org.au or GPO Box 2032, Canberra ACT 2601.