

## **The University of Mississippi School of Law Student Diversity Award**

The Diversity Committee will award the annual University of Mississippi School of Law Student Diversity Award to the student (or students) who by their actions or activities in the preceding year or in past years demonstrates an ongoing commitment to the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competence enunciated in the University of Mississippi School of Law's Strategic Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Plan (Diversity Plan).

The Award shall consist of a personalized plaque, a \$500 award, and entry of the winner's or winners' name(s) on a "history plaque" to be located in the Admissions lobby.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible, a nominee or nominees must:

1. Be a full-time current or a previous student of the University of Mississippi School of Law;
2. Not be an immediate previous winner of the award.

### **CRITERIA**

The Diversity Committee will grant the award based on one or more of the following criteria:

1. How the nominee's work supported, fostered, or created value towards inclusion and diversity for the Law School and/or the public. For example, did the nominee accomplish goals far beyond the expectations, duties, and responsibilities of the nominee's current role as a student;

Examples could include the nominee's involvement in diverse student organizations by membership or by participation in events, including but not limited to such organizations as the Black Law Students Association, the Latin Law Students Association, the Law Association for Women, the Military Justice Society, OUTlaw, Law Partners and other law student organizations);

2. How the nominee demonstrated true empathy for marginalized groups and gave voice to marginalized people in a way that might allow the larger society to hear them. Please provide specific examples.

Examples could demonstrate how the nominee best exemplified cultural competence through behaviors, attitudes, and practices that enable the nominee and the larger student body to honor and respect the beliefs, interpersonal styles, attitudes, language, and behaviors of a diverse population;

3. Whether the nominee advanced inclusion through a new initiative or experience far beyond those of other groups, individuals, programs, or systems. Please provide specific examples;
4. How the nominee took action far beyond the expectations of the nominee's current role as a student in a group or as an individual or within a program or system. Please provide specific examples.

Examples might include outstanding contributions to course discussion or prompting class discussion to advance the value of diversity where appropriate;

5. How the nominee created value to the law school, the university, and/or the public. Does that value from a group, individual, program, or system create change far beyond the law school's mission and strategic goals. Please provide specific examples.

Examples might include accountability to UM Law, as well as pro-active responses to possible problems in our law community and the larger university community;

## **NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS**

- A. Please provide a nomination statement of a maximum of 1,000 words in Word (or similar software) and with 1-inch margins on all sides and 12-point font, an optional resume or c.v., and other materials that support the nomination;
- B. Nomination statements should be detailed, fully developed, and include specific examples so that the Diversity Committee is sufficiently informed of the nominee(s) qualifications for the award;
- C. Self-nomination is not allowed;
- D. The nominator must submit an online Nomination Form and supporting materials by April 27, 2023;
- E. After the nominations are received, the Diversity Committee will meet and determine the winner;
- F. If the Diversity Committee grants the award to a current student or students, it shall present the award during graduation awards day;
- G. If the Diversity Committee grants the award to an alumnus or alumni, it shall grant it during Law Alumni Weekend.