



MDTC JOHN P. JACOBS  
APPELLATE ADVOCACY AWARD  
NOMINATIONS PACKET

PO Box 66  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
517-627-3745  
517-627-3950

*\*highest appellate achievement award ever granted\**

MDTC  
John P. Jacobs Appellate Advocacy Award

Recipients

2018 – John P. Jacobs, \*Jacobs and Diemer, PC

2020 – Susan Healy Zitterman, Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook

2021 – No award presented.

2022 – Dan Saylor

\* Firm at time of receiving the award

Updated 12-17-2021 mh

## **THE MDTC JOHN P. JACOBS APPELLATE ADVOCACY AWARD**

### **I. History and Purpose**

In 2017, the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel (MDTC) established a new, major prestigious award entitled MDTC's "John P. Jacobs Appellate Advocacy Award". The award is designed to honor those civil appellate attorneys who have over a number of years, through their integrity; professionalism; experience; intelligence; creativity; judgment; personality; sensitivity; civility; writing and advocacy skills; community involvement efforts to educate young attorneys; support for the defense bar; consideration and support for the less fortunate of our society; and the vigorous ethical representation of their clients both in and outside the courtroom, displayed themselves to the best of the very best in appellate advocacy in state and federal courts within and outside of Michigan. Appropriately, this award has been named in honor of one of the finest appellate counsel in Michigan's history, who had, over his more than 43 years in practice, earned the respect, admiration, and reputation of being one of the most creative, aggressive, ethical and caring appellate lawyers, not only in our state, but throughout the country. His numerous appellate victories in some of the most notable and largest civil matters has brought accolades from not only state and federal appellate judges within our state, but also those outside of our state, along with long-time well respected counsel who also specialize in this very, very important aspect of the legal profession and Michigan's legendary defense trial counsel.

Your participation in the nominating process is vital, and ensures that all of those who deserve recognition will have the opportunity to be duly considered for this prestigious award.

### **II. Nomination Process and Format**

The sponsor of a nominee must be a current MDTC member in good standing, but the nominee does not have to have ever been a member of the organization as long as they meet the other following criteria:

- (1) the person has spent at least 75% of his/her time in participating on an appellate level in the defense of civil lawsuits; and
- (2) the person has not spent more than 10% of his/her time representing plaintiffs in personal injury lawsuits.

It is not necessary that the nominee be currently living and/or practicing law.

To ensure the individual given the John P. Jacobs Appellate Advocacy Award is worthy of this honor, the Board of Directors has adopted criteria that will be considered in both nominating, and selecting, the honoree. The criteria are as follows:

- A. Number of cases in which appeals were handled.
- B. Creativity and intelligence in the handling of defense matters on appeal.

- C. Advocacy skills as reflected in appeals of complex legal matters.
- D. Good judgment in the preparation of trial matters involving appellate counsel serving as a second chair appellate consultant and in appeals.
- E. Quality of the writing and advocacy skills displayed by the individual during the trial and appellate process
- F. Commitment and supportive actions for the defense bar.
- G. Participation in civic, charitable, community and bar activities.
- I. Assistance in the representation and otherwise support of the less fortunate of our society.

The sponsor is encouraged to address as many of these criteria as possible in submitting an accurate and convincing presentation advocating his or her nominee. As an alternative, the sponsor may submit a detailed resume of the nominee, or a brief resume augmented with a short written summary of applicable criteria relative to the nominee.

The materials supporting a nomination should include a completed (see attached) one page nomination form. Please send all of the nomination materials to the following address:

MDTC, PO Box 66, Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-3745; Fax 517-627-3950

MDTC will be accepting these nominations until October 1, 2021

### **III. Procedure for Selection of Award Winner and Presentation of Award**

- A. A three-person committee, who are active members of MDTC, including one lawyer who specializes in the defense appellate practice, entitled Awards and Nomination Committee for the MDTC John P. Jacobs Appellate Advocacy Award shall be selected by the Board of Directors to review all nominations submitted by any MDTC sponsor. From the nominations submitted, the nomination committee shall select the five most deserving candidates as semi-finalists for the award. The rationale for the selection of such five candidates shall be set forth by the nomination committee in a memorandum to MDTC's past presidents.
- B. The names of the five nominees along with the memorandum relating to the action taken by the nomination committee shall be submitted to the past presidents to review and then select three finalists for the award. A memorandum reflecting the action of the past presidents shall then be submitted to MDTC's Board of Directors for selection of the award winner.

**NOMINATION FORM FOR  
MDTC's ANNUAL  
"JOHN P. JACOBS APPELLATE ADVOCACY" AWARD**

Nominations should be typewritten and be limited to six double-spaced pages on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper. The deadline for nominations is October 1, 2023.

All nominations should be sent to MDTC's address at: P. O. Box 66, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

If you have any questions, contact Madelyne Lawry, nominations committee chair, at 517-627-3745.

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Law Firm (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Practice \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Admission to Bar \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Year Practiced \_\_\_\_\_

Names of law firms and / or other legal positions held and time period when associated with such firm(s) and when working in such other legal position

**Sponsored By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Law Firm Name (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member of MDTC? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_