



MDTC Annual

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

NOMINATIONS PACKET

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Phone: 517-627-3745  
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[www.mdtc.org](http://www.mdtc.org)

## THE GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

### I. History and Purpose

The Michigan Defense Trial Counsel's (MDTC) Golden Gavel Award is an annual award that recognizes a lawyer who has been in practice for ten (10) years or less, for their contributions to the legal profession, community, and the advancement of other young lawyers.

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 Criteria

The sponsor of a nominee must be a current MDTC member in good standing. The sponsor may nominate anyone who meets the following criteria:

1. The candidate shall not have practiced law for a period longer than 10 years.
2. The candidate shall not be a current board member, officer, committee chair, and regional chair, or other MDTC leadership member.
3. All candidates submitted in previous years, shall automatically be resubmitted to the committee. Those making the original nominations are encouraged to submit additional information if necessary.
4. Candidates need not be a current member of the MDTC. However, each must be a member in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan and serve as civil defense counsel.

To ensure the individual candidate is worthy of this honor, the Board of Directors may consider the following or any other factor the Board of Directors deem appropriate for this award:

1. The candidate demonstrates significant contribution to professionalism and courtesy in the practice of law such that it promotes the image and honorable reputation of the profession.
2. The candidate demonstrates significant achievement to charitable endeavors, community involvement, or pro bono representation.
3. The candidate demonstrates significant achievement in the area of advancing “young attorneys” as evidenced by that candidate’s leadership of others and advancement of the image of his peers by specific examples of this candidate’s impact upon others by way of mentoring, awards, civic leadership or otherwise.
4. The candidate demonstrates significant achievement in their practice area as evidenced by their knowledge, skill and oral or written advocacy.

The nomination and any materials supporting a nomination may be submitted by mail, fax, or e-mail to the following address/number/e-mail:

MDTC, PO Box 66, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Fax 517-627-3950

[info@mdtc.org](mailto:info@mdtc.org)

**The deadline for nominations is October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

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

A. A committee entitled Awards Committee shall be selected annually by the President, as provided for in MDTC Bylaw Section 5.6, to review all nominations submitted. From the nominations submitted, the Awards Committee shall review the nomination and any information submitted, gather any additional information the committee deems necessary, and if more than five nominations are submitted, submit to the Board of Directors the five most deserving candidates. If fewer than five candidates are nominated, all candidates will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

The names of the nominees along with the information received or gathered by the Awards Committee, or a summary of such information for each nominee, shall be submitted by the Awards Committee to the MDTC's Board of Directors for selection of the award winner.

Updated 11-7-2024 Board Meeting edits were recommended and approved.

Updated 11-18-2024 MH



## Young Lawyers Section - Golden Gavel Award

Dear Colleague:

The MDTC is pleased to announce its annual presentation of the Young Lawyers Section. The Golden Gavel Award will be presented at the annual MDTC Legal Excellence Awards.

We are inviting submissions of nomination packages that highlight the candidates with particular emphasis on the criteria listed below. Please feel free to attach letters of recommendation from any source supporting the candidate's award selection. The following criteria will be emphasized in the selection of this year's recipient:

1. The candidate shall not have practiced law for longer than ten years.
2. The candidate shall demonstrate a significant contribution to professionalism and courtesy in the practice of law such that it promotes the image and honorable reputation of the profession.
3. The candidate shall demonstrate significant achievement in charitable endeavors, community involvement, or pro bono representation.
4. The candidate shall demonstrate significant achievement in the area of advancing "young attorneys" as evidenced by that candidate's leadership of others and advancement of the image of his peers by specific examples of this candidate's impact upon others by way of mentoring, awards, civic leadership or otherwise.
5. The candidate shall demonstrate significant achievement in their practice area as evidenced by their knowledge, skill, and oral advocacy.
6. All candidates submitted in previous years shall automatically be resubmitted to the committee. Those making the original nominations are encouraged to submit additional information if necessary.

Candidates need not be a current member of the MDTC. However, each member must be in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan and will serve as defense counsel.

To submit nominations for the MDTC Golden Gavel, please complete the section below and return it to MDTC, P.O. Box 66 Grand Ledge MI 48837, or email the following information, referencing MDTC GG Nomination, to [info@mdtc.org](mailto:info@mdtc.org). The deadline for nominations is **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. (Nominees will be notified of their nomination and asked to submit information for review and further consideration).

### Candidate Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to be identified as having provided this nomination?    Yes    No

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