



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, Garan Lucow Miller PC

2023 – No award presented.

Firm at time of receiving the award

* Deceased

Updated 9-25-2023 TC

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 respect, admiration, and a 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 have 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 specializes in this very, very important aspect of the legal profession and Michigan's legendary defense trial counsel.

Your participation in the nomination 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 person has spent at least 75% of his/her time 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.
- (3) the person is not a sitting MDTC Board of Directors member at the time of nomination.

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 may consider the following or any other factor the Board of Directors deem appropriate for this award:

- 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 in our society.

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

The deadline for nominations is October 1st.

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

- 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 Awards Committee, for purposes of this award only, may consult a lawyer who specializes in the defense appellate practice, or appoint such an individual as an ad hoc member of the Awards Committee for purposes of evaluating candidates..
- B. 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.

Adopted at the June 23, 2017 Board Meeting

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

Updated 11-18-24 MH

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**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 1st.

All nominations should be sent to MDTC's Email: info@mdtc.org

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 _____