

HAROLD V. FROEHLICH AWARD FOR JUDICIAL COURAGE



The American Judges Association created The Harold Froehlich Award for Judicial Courage in 2013 to recognize the highest level of judicial courage in the service of justice. The award is meant to honor a judge who makes fair and impartial judgments in accord with the rule of law exercising independence from personal consequence. The award will be given at AJA's annual meetings.

Judge Harold V. Froehlich was born in Appleton, Wisconsin. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean War. In 1959, Froehlich graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison and received his law degree in 1962. Froehlich served in the Wisconsin State Assembly, 1963-1973 and served as speaker. He was elected as a Republican in 1972 to the 93rd United States Congress replacing the retired John W. Byrnes.

In 1974, as a freshman representative, Harold V. Froehlich, a scholarly Wisconsin Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, joined six GOP colleagues in voting articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon, a president of his own party. Years later, when discussing his vote, Judge Froehlich said: "I didn't dwell on it then, but it was certainly a problem in getting reelected....I have no regrets, however, because I based my vote on the evidence." Froehlich, who had narrowly won his seat in 1972, believes that his loss in November 1974 "definitely" resulted from his impeachment vote four months earlier.

Judge Froehlich was appointed a circuit court judge in Outagamie County, Wisconsin, in 1981, and served until he retired from the bench on April 8, 2011.

Award Criteria

The award will be made to a past or present judge at any level of court. Emphasis will be placed on contemporary acts of judicial courage.

In making a nomination for this award, the nominator should identify the act(s) of judicial courage and explain why the judge's course of action best served the cause of justice. The nomination should outline the obstacles, dangers, and pressures the judge encountered.

The American Judges Association administers the award and its Award Committee will make the selections. Entries for the Harold Froehlich Award for Judicial Courage must be received by July 22, 2025. The Awards Committee shall choose the recipient and announce at the AJA Annual Conference. The Association reserves the right not to select an award-winner due to lack of suitable entries. *Notification will be given to the winners at least 45 days in advance of the annual conference.*

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The Harold Froehlich Award winner will:

- Be presented with a plaque recognizing their distinguished reporting.
- Be featured in American Judges Associations publication the "Court Review."
- Be listed permanently in the Harold Froehlich Award section of the American Judges Association Website.

Submission of the nomination

A Nominator/Applicant (who does not have to be a member of AJA) should download the "Entry Form" for the Harold V. Froehlich Award at the end of this document and complete. The Nominator shall state the name of the judicial nominee and give a brief explanation of the actions or events in which the nominee displayed judicial courage, as defined in the award criteria. Attachments to the nomination may include news clips and other background materials pertaining to the actions or events described; however, other supporting materials are not required. AJA accepts and will receive such materials by mail but does not agree to return them.

Nominators shall include their name and address and, if possible, the names and addresses of persons who can provide further information on the nominee.

It is important to note that the Harold Froehlich Award for Judicial Courage recipients are not selected on the basis of write-in campaigns or the volume of nominations an individual receives. A single nomination will place the individual's name in consideration for the award.

Award nominations are accepted on a continuing basis throughout the year. Nominations received after the July 22nd deadline will not be considered for that year's award. However, they will be rolled over for consideration the following year.

Those submitting nominations must submit a packet electronically or on paper with the following:

- Entry form
- Articles, or broadcast pieces focused judicial courage, as described above
- Support letter from nominator
- A brief biography if it is an individual being nominated

Please note that entries may be submitted electronically to aja@ncsc.org but must include all of the information listed above and be submitted by the deadline. *Entries will not be returned.*

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(757) 259-1841 | aja@ncsc.org

Nominators/Applicants, by their submission, agree to work with American Judges Association to secure limited republication rights for winning entries. Nominators should be sure that any CDs or DVDs enclosed with the application are in working order. Defective materials will not be judged. By granting an award, the American Judges Association does not endorse the position taken by the recipient.

Address questions or applications to:

American Judges Association
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147

(757) 259-1841
aja@ncsc.org

The American Judges Association is the voice of the Judiciary. It has nearly 1,000 members, which includes both present and former judges of courts of all jurisdictions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and The Virgin Islands. Its Board of Governors is composed of representatives from fourteen districts.

The objective and purpose of the Association is: to promote and improve the effective administration of justice; to maintain the status and independence of the judiciary; to provide a forum for the continuing education of its members and the general public; and for the exchange of new ideas among all judges.

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Entry Form :

Name of Judge:

Title:

Court:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Name of nominator if different from above:

Title:

Organization:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Form Submission:

Email form to: aja@ncsc.org

Nomination Deadline: July 22, 2025

Mail form to:

American Judges Association

ATTN: Association Services

300 Newport Ave, Williamsburg, VA 23185