



Outstanding Advocate Award

Purpose

To recognize Academy members' participation in advocacy-related efforts at either the state and/or federal levels. Individuals must perform advocacy functions in their capacity as an ophthalmologist.

Qualifications and Criteria

The nominee must be a Fellow or Member in good standing of the American Academy of Ophthalmology who has demonstrated a pattern of advocating for quality patient eye care and the profession at the state and/or federal level(s) over a period of at least several years. Qualifying service might include, but is not limited to:

- Implementing fundraiser(s) for political candidates
- Lobbying for federal legislation or regulatory issues introduced by the Academy or providing opposition to adverse legislation and/or regulatory issues
- Instrumental in helping to grow his/her state ophthalmology society PAC
- Lobbying for state legislation or regulatory issues introduced or endorsed by the state ophthalmological society and/or relevant subspecialty societies, or providing opposition to adverse legislation and/or regulatory issues
- Participation in Academy Congressional Advocacy Day (CAD) visits
- Presenting/arranging for Residents' Advocacy Program(s) (RAP) at state level
- Instrumental in key Academy advocacy outcome (i.e. getting a bill introduced, meeting/negotiating ophthalmology's position with key Member(s) of Congress, securing coalition partner(s) for a particular advocacy effort, etc.)
- Instrumental in implementing a State Legislator Advocacy Plan, including a key contact program wherein an ophthalmologist contact representing the state ophthalmology society is provided for each legislator
- Holding key leadership position(s) within the state medical association serving to raise the issues of concern to ophthalmology

The service must have been above and beyond the usual service commitment required by a sponsoring organization or expected by the type of service involved, should have entailed personal sacrifice on the part of the ophthalmologist, and must have been consonant with the principles of the Code of Ethics of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Only one such award may be given to an individual during his or her lifetime

OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Selection of Recipients

The Academy's Awards Committee will consider only those nominations that meet the qualifications criteria described above. In reviewing each nomination, the Awards Committee will verify references of the nominee, and if necessary gather additional information in making their determination.

Selection of recipients will be determined based on factors including, but not limited to: intensity of service, continuity of service, length of service, need for the service, personal sacrifice of the ophthalmologist, and the recommendations of the nominating organization and/or individuals identified in the nomination form, or others whom the committee may consult. **One** recipient will be selected annually.

Nomination Procedures

On an annual basis, State, Subspecialty and Specialized Interest Societies will be solicited to complete nomination forms for nominee(s) for the *Outstanding Advocate Award*. Each nominating body must complete an Outstanding Advocate Award nomination form per nominee. Describe in detail the nature of the advocacy-related efforts, the sustainability of service, the length and consistency of service, the scope of impact, and references who may be contacted. At least three letters of recommendation **must** be included with the nomination form.

Fill out the PDF form in its entirety. Handwritten nomination forms will not be accepted. For questions, contact Member Services by phone at (415) 561-8581, fax (415) 561-8575, or e-mail member_services@aao.org.

The deadline to receive nomination forms is **March 31, 2021**. The Awards Committee will submit its recommendations of the award recipient for final approval by the Academy's Board of Trustees. The award recipient will be honored at the Opening Session during AAO 2021, the Academy's annual meeting in New Orleans.

OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Society or Nominating Body Information

Society Name or Nominating Body

Main Contact Person

Title

Address

City

State

Postal Code

Telephone

Fax

Email

Nominee Contact Information

Name of Nominee

Address

City

State

Postal Code

Telephone

Fax

Email

OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Description of Advocacy-Related Efforts

Describe in detail the nature of the advocacy efforts provided by the nominee - advocating for patients and our profession at the state and/or federal level. How did s/he go above and beyond to protect sight and empower lives? Include the need for this service along with its sustainability, length and consistency, and the scope of impact.

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References

Provide three names and contact information to verify advocacy service. Provide more references as needed.

Name

Address

City

State

Postal Code

Telephone

Email

Name

Address

City

State

Postal Code

Telephone

Email

Name

Address

City

State

Postal Code

Telephone

Email

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Please include any supplementary materials (maximum five pages) you would like the Awards Committee to review concerning this nomination.

Return the completed nomination form by **March 31, 2021** to:

American Academy of Ophthalmology
c/o Lauren Ioka/Member Services
655 Beach St.
San Francisco, CA 94109

Additional Contact Information

Toll Free: +1.866.561.8558

Phone: +1.415.561.8581

Fax: +1.415.561.8575

Email: lioka@aao.org