



# WOMEN LAWYERS of Western Australia

## WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR

## RURAL, REGIONAL AND REMOTE WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR

## JUNIOR WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR

## ANTOINETTE KENNEDY AWARD

### **Selection Criteria for the Woman Lawyer of the Year Awards**

The Woman Lawyer of the Year Awards recognise and reward women who have made an outstanding contribution towards the legal profession.

In respect of all four awards regard will be had to the nominee's achievements in the past, as well as to their ongoing contributions as at the time of nomination.

The selection committee will give consideration to the following criteria in assessing and comparing nominations in each of the four categories:

1. Skill
  - a. the nominee's level of professional skill or excellence; and
  - b. the degree of difficulty of the nominee's achievements.
2. Encouragement
  - a. the extent to which the nominee encourages and promotes, and/or provides an inspirational role model for women within, or aspiring to, the legal profession.
3. Influence
  - a. the extent to which the nominee has been involved in, engaged with, and/or demonstrated leadership within the legal community and/or the wider community.

4. Altruism
  - a. the extent to which the nominee's contribution has been voluntary or largely uncompensated.
5. Advocacy
  - a. the extent to which the nominee demonstrates an understanding of, and support for the promotion of justice and equality for all women.

There are also further criteria below that are specific to each of the awards.

#### ***Woman Lawyer of the Year Award***

The Woman Lawyer of the Year Award is particularly to recognise those women who have been admitted to practice law in any jurisdiction in Australia or overseas for more than 5 years and have made significant recent contributions to the promotion of justice for all women and the participation of women in the legal profession.

#### ***Antoinette Kennedy Award***

This award recognises a career long contribution to the advancement of women in the legal profession. The award is primarily intended to honour those who, despite long and highly influential careers, have not otherwise had substantial peer recognition via silk, judicial appointment etc. Sitting judicial officers are not eligible for the award.

The Committee will invite names of possible recipients to be submitted to it, but the award will be made at the Committee's discretion, including from names which are not submitted, and it is not subject to the usual nomination process. The submitted names will not be published in the Honours Dinner booklet. The Committee reserves the right to make no award in any particular year.

#### ***Rural, Regional and Remote Woman Lawyer of the Year***

The Rural, Regional and Remote Woman Lawyer of the Year Award is particularly to recognise an exceptional female lawyer working in a rural, regional or remote area of Western Australia who has made an outstanding contribution to their local community and the legal profession. To be eligible for nomination, the lawyer must be based in Western Australia and be working at a location that is at least 50 km outside of the Perth CBD.

### ***Junior Woman Lawyer of the Year Award***

The Junior Woman Lawyer of the Year Award is particularly to recognise those women who have been admitted to practice law in any jurisdiction in Australia or overseas for less than 5 years.

### **Eligibility for all four Awards**

The following eligibility criteria apply to all four awards:

- nominees do not have to be members of Women Lawyers of Western Australia Inc. (“WLWA”) but need to be eligible to become a member of WLWA;
- nominees must be resident in Western Australia;
- nominees do not have to hold a current practising certificate, but must be eligible to be admitted to legal practice in Western Australia;
- awards will not be granted posthumously unless the nominee was a practising lawyer in the relevant year;
- no self-nominations will be accepted;
- groups of people or couples will not normally be eligible, although in exceptional cases the selection committee may reserve the right to consider such nominations;
- a person who has previously received the award will not generally be re-eligible to receive the award although the selection committee may reserve the right to consider such nominations where the nomination is based on a contribution by the nominee which materially differs from the nominee’s contribution in respect of which the award was previously made; and
- unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years.

### **Selection Committee for all four Awards**

The selection committee shall consist of the following:

- the patron of WLWA or another female Judge of any Court of Western Australia appointed by the committee of WLWA;
- another female Judge of any Court of Western Australia appointed by the committee of WLWA;
- the President of WLWA or her nominee;
- an additional committee member of WLWA appointed on a yearly basis by the committee of WLWA by consensus or if not possible, by majority vote; and
- by invitation to the Chief Judge of the Family Court and the Chief Magistrate of the Magistrates Court, a female Judge of each of those respective courts.

## **Procedure for Nominations and Selection**

WLWA shall call for nominations for each of the awards by email to its then current financial members (or non-financial members at the discretion of the secretary or membership officer) at least 21 days prior to the closing date for nominations. The selection and eligibility criteria shall be provided in the email together with the closing date for nominations.

- WLWA may call for nominations from or publicise each of the awards within the general community at the discretion of the committee of WLWA.
- The closing date for nominations shall be 28 February of the relevant year, although this date may be changed at the discretion of the committee of WLWA and upon notice by email to its members.
- Any person may submit any number of nominations by email to [enquiry@wlwa.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@wlwa.asn.au).
- Each nomination submitted must be in the approved form, and no longer than six pages in total and must include a statement signed by the nominee that she consents to being nominated, and whether she consents to her name being published by WLWA in relation to the nomination.
- The selection committee may at its discretion request further information about a nominee from the person who has submitted the nomination.
- The selection committee shall make any decision by majority vote and any deliberation of the selection committee will be confidential.
- The decision of the selection committee will be in its discretion and final.
- The selection committee may decide in its discretion not to make an award in any or all categories in any particular year.

## **Announcement of Awards**

The awards will be announced at the Honours Dinner held by WLWA in the month of March each year.