

**AWA FOUNDATION**  
**2023 “PREMIER WOMEN IN THE LAW” AWARD**

The AWA Foundation is seeking nominations for its “Premier Women in the Law” award, focusing on exceptional women attorneys in Houston. These awards will be presented at its annual luncheon on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

**Award Definition and Criteria:** In support of the mission of the Houston Association of Women Attorneys and the AWA Foundation, the Premier Women in the Law award is presented to women attorneys who have contributed to Houston’s legal community through their professional achievement and community involvement and by actively seeking to advance other women in the law.

- Nominees must practice in Houston or have strong professional links to Houston’s legal community.
- Nominees should demonstrate outstanding professional achievement and success in their practice area—be it government service, private practice, nonprofit, academics or business—through a record of ethical advocacy on behalf of their clients, causes or organizations.
- Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to promoting women in the legal profession, examples of which include creating opportunities to advance women lawyers; actively hiring, seeking to retain and promote and mentoring women attorneys; and/or involvement in professional or community activities designed to promote women within the legal profession.

**Note:** Current AWA board members and AWA Foundation trustees and volunteers are not eligible for these awards. The AWA Foundation respectfully requests that nominees not be notified of their nomination. Once selected, honorees must commit to attend the AWA Premier Women in the Law cocktail reception in February 2023 and the AWA Foundation Premier Women in the Law luncheon on April 11, 2023. Honorees will have an opportunity to briefly address the audience at the luncheon with the goal of inspiring others through their achievement.

**Nomination Instructions:** To nominate a deserving woman attorney, please provide a nomination letter that addresses the following:

1. Please specify the nominee’s name, title, organization and contact information.
2. Please provide the basis for the nomination, which may include specific actions taken by the nominee that you believe merits her recognition, such as achievement, persistence, resilience, creativity, entrepreneurialism and/or overcoming obstacles in the legal profession.
3. Please provide a personal anecdote that illustrates how the nominee has demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and success in their practice area, and/or demonstrated a commitment to promoting women in the legal profession.
4. What do you most admire about the nominee and why?
5. What one word best describes the nominee and why?
6. Please provide any additional information you believe would assist the Nominations Committee in reaching its decision.

**Nominations will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. CT on December 2, 2022.** Please e-mail your nomination letters to AWA Foundation Nominations Committee Member Emily Harbison at [eharbison@reedsmith.com](mailto:eharbison@reedsmith.com).

**AWA FOUNDATION PREMIER WOMEN IN THE LAW AWARD HONOREES\***

**2020**

Demetra Liggins, Partner, McGuireWoods  
Kimberly Phillips, General Counsel, Litigation, Shell Oil Company  
Ann Ryan Robertson, Partner, Locke Lord LLP  
Kelly Sandill, Partner, Hunton Andrews & Kurth LLP

**2019**

Burke Butler, Special Counsel, Phillips Black, Inc.  
Betsy Kamin, Member, Clark Hill Strasburger  
Amanda McMillian, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Anadarko Petroleum Company  
Phyllis Young, Partner, Akin Gump Hauer & Feld LLP

**2018**

Debra Tsuchiyama Baker, Managing Partner, Baker • Wotring LLP  
Linda Broocks, Partner, Kean Miller LLP  
Phyllis Randolph Frye, Partner, Frye Benavidez and O'Neil PLLC  
Cristina E. Rodriguez, Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP

**2017**

The Honorable Keith P. Ellison, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas  
Veronica Foley, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Precision Drilling  
Alissa Rubin Gomez, Executive Director, Houston Volunteer Lawyers  
Hillary Holmes, Partner, Baker Botts L.L.P.  
Kathryn M. Kase, Senior Counsel and Director of the Capital Trial Project, Texas Defender Service

**2016**

Belinda Hill, First Assistant District Attorney, Harris County  
Allyson N. Ho, Partner, Morgan Lewis  
Diane E. Marshall, Principal, Marshall & Lewis L.L.P.  
Beryle McHenry, Legal Director, Sun Coast Resources, Inc.  
Marjorie A. Meyers, Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Texas  
Aida Josephine Nelson, in memoriam

**2015**

Laura E. Arnold, Co-Chair, Laura and John Arnold Foundation  
Claudia Wilson Frost, Co-Chair, Patent Litigation Practice, DLA Piper LLP (USA)  
Holland N. O'Neil, Chair of the Board of Directors, Gardere Wynne Swell LLP  
Kathy D. Patrick, Partner, Gibbs & Bruns  
The Honorable Lee H. Rosenthal, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas

**2014**

Devon Anderson, Harris County District Attorney  
Chief Justice Kem Frost, 14th Court of Appeals  
Justice Eva Guzman, The Supreme Court of Texas  
Susan Barrington Sanchez, ExxonMobil Corporation  
Lauren Waddell, The Waddell Law Firm, P.C.  
Ruthie White, Jackson Lewis PC

**2013**

Wendy Daboval, General Counsel, Chevron North America E&P  
Clare Doyle, Deputy General Counsel, Reliant Energy  
Kimberly Frye, General Counsel, Key Energy Services  
Charlotte Rasche, General Counsel, Prosperity Bank  
Charlene Ripley, General Counsel, Linn Energy, LLC

**2012**

Lisa Pennington, Managing Partner, Baker Hostetler  
Maria Boyce, Partner-in-Charge, Baker Botts  
Christine B. LaFollette, Partner-in-Charge, Akin Gump  
Katherine (Kit) E. Flanagan, Office Managing Shareholder, Littler Mendelson  
Ileana Blanco, Managing Partner, DLA Piper  
Shauna Johnson Clark, Partner-in-Charge, Fulbright & Jaworski  
Nancy MacKimm, Partner-in-Charge, Jones Day

Mary-Olga Lovett, Managing Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig  
Rachel Giesber Clingman, Partner-in-Charge, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan  
Lisa Meyerhoff, Managing Partner, Baker & McKenzie  
Marie R. Yeates, Managing Partner, Vinson & Elkins  
Teresa S. Valderrama, Resident Manager, Jackson Lewis

\*Listed position at the time of the award