

**POMERANZ/O'BRIEN AWARD GUIDELINES**  
**REVISED 2009-03-16**

**I. Preamble**

It is the purpose of this award to honor attorneys who have contributed to the workers' compensation system and/or community by exemplary service that has gone above and beyond that displayed by his or her peers and were truly extraordinary. The award was named after Attorney Edward Pomeranz and Attorney Edward O'Brien, two individuals who stood as shining lights among their peers and who demonstrated the legal competence, compassion and ethical standards toward which we strive.

It is the purpose of these guidelines to set forth the standards used so that future nominations and inductees will be judged and measured by objective and consistent standards. It is further understood that there may be emotional or other events which would cause names to be put forward for nominations. However, it is the purpose of this award and those that serve on the Nominating Committee divorce themselves from any such emotional circumstances and utilize objective standards for those who are truly deserving of this award. As such, while there may be a desire to nominate one or more people per year for this, the Nominating Committee should feel no compulsion to do so unless any such names put forward have met the standards of these guidelines. There is no prohibition to inducting more than one individual at any given time.

**II. Standards**

**A. Nominating Committee**

1. The Nominating Committee will consist of the current officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Connecticut Bar Association, plus the two most recent past chairs (or a prior chair, if one of the two most recent are not available or cannot/will not serve) of the Workers' Compensation Section.
2. The Nominating Committee will receive and consider nominations from any person, pursuant to a "Form for Nomination" as devised and revised from time-to-time by the Nominating Committee, and will present its recommendations to the Executive Committee only after at least seventy five percent (75%) of the members of the Nominating Committee agree to the nomination.

3. The recommendation of the Nominating Committee will be presented to the Executive Committee for its consideration and vote, only upon prior notice that the nomination will be presented. The Executive Committee will vote upon such nomination, and the Award shall be granted only upon an affirmative vote of 75% of those members present (but must also be at least 51% of then current voting members) at the Executive Committee meeting.
4. The Executive Committee may vote upon such nomination at the Executive Committee meeting at which the nomination(s) is/are made or may defer its vote until the next scheduled meeting, but the Award shall be granted only upon an affirmative vote of 75% of those Executive Committee members present at the Executive Committee meeting.

**B. Recipient Qualifications**

1. Such an Award would be granted to an attorney who has a minimum of 25 years of practice, the majority of which would be in the workers' compensation field.
2. The recipient must be deemed to have made extraordinary contributions to the workers' compensation system and community. That individual must have exhibited the highest degree of ethical standards, knowledge, capability, demeanor, compassion and respect for the workers' compensation system that sets him or her well above his or her peers and is recognized by his or her peers as a role model for others to follow in the practice of law. Examples of such standards and contributions may include, but not be limited to: **Substantial involvement in the Connecticut Bar Association Workers' Compensation Section; substantial involvement in the workers' compensation specialization certification program;** chairing a section of the Connecticut Bar Association, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, defense lawyers bar association or similar association; participation in other organizations addressing the rights and obligations of workers, employers and insurers relating to worker injuries and/or preventing work-place injuries; published scholarly treaties on workers' compensation or related fields and/or published articles in recognized legal journals related to workers' compensation; lectured at CBA or other equivalent continuing legal education sponsors on the topic of workers' compensation, litigation practice or medical issues relative to workers'

compensation; substantial workers' compensation trial experience before the Workers' Compensation Commission and appellate experience before the Compensation Review Board, Appellate Court and/or Supreme Court.

3. It is recognized that there would be a natural tendency to nominate workers' compensation commissioners or judges for this award by the mere nature of their position. However, while no commissioner or judge would be precluded from being a recipient of this award, that person must have exhibited the requisite qualifications outside of their position as a workers' compensation commissioner or judge.
4. While it is hoped that a deserving individual will be honored during their lifetime, it may be appropriate to nominate someone posthumously. However, no such name shall be eligible for nomination until a minimum of three years following his or her death.

### **III. Conclusion**

It is understood that this award, by its very nature, and the qualifications and criteria for awarding, may change with time. It is anticipated that such changes to these guidelines may be considered. Any such changes would require the affirmative vote of 75% of the members of the Nominating Committee. Any proposed changes must then be distributed to the Executive Committee members at least 14 days prior to the scheduled meeting to vote on those changes. An affirmative vote of 75% of those present for such Executive Committee meeting is needed to adopt such changes,