

Silver Gavel Awards 2009

for Media and the Arts



GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY Receipt Deadline: January 7, 2009

These entry materials have been designed for easy distribution by e-mail or print. We encourage you to do so.

Overview

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on Gavel Awards is pleased to announce the 52nd annual Silver Gavel Awards Competition for 2009. Each year the American Bar Association presents these awards to recognize work in media and the arts, published or presented during the preceding year, that has been exemplary in helping to foster the American public's understanding of law and the legal system.

Program Objectives

The overall purpose of the Silver Gavel Awards is to recognize annually eligible entries from communications media that have been exemplary in fostering the American public's understanding of the law and the legal system. The Gavel Awards seek to recognize entries reaching the public across a wide range of communities and audiences. The "public" includes, but is not limited to, people in their various roles as students of all ages (including young people and adults), as consumers, and as citizens of a law-based democratic society. To address this purpose, the Gavel Awards also seek to recognize publications and programs that meet one or more of these objectives:

- to educate the public about the American constitutional/legal system and the fundamental principles and values upon which it is based (this may include both domestic and international issues or comparative perspectives);
- to educate the public about the operations of legal institutions (e.g., the courts, legislatures, regulatory agencies, prisons, and law enforcement agencies) and the role lawyers and other legal professionals play in the justice system; and
- to encourage public support for improvements in the American justice system by informing the public about current practices, policies, and issues.

Selection Criteria

The American Bar Association has established the following criteria for selecting entries to receive Gavel Awards:

- extent to which entry addresses the Gavel Awards' purpose/objectives;
- educational value of legal information or issues treated;
- impact on, or outreach to, the public;
- thoroughness and accuracy in presentation of issues;
- creativity and originality in approach to subject matter and effectiveness of presentation; and
- demonstrated technical skill in production of entry.

Entry and Eligibility Requirements

Entries must have been originally published, produced, or presented between January 1 and December 31, 2008. You **MUST** indicate all coproducers or copublishers, if any, involved in the development of your entry. Non-English-language entries accompanied by an English translation or transcript are eligible.

Entries cannot have been previously submitted for the Silver Gavel Awards unless they are substantially revised and represent new releases or editions.

Entries should be on a single subject or issue or otherwise address a cohesive theme. They cannot be treated as *representative* of work not submitted. Accordingly, a series of related parts (e.g., programs, columns, articles) is eligible, but "body of work" entries are not. Within these parameters, entries should also not be so lengthy as to be a burden for reviewers or otherwise lessen their impact.

For all entries, submit **five entry sets**, collated, with both forms (including one signed original) and five entry products or products (e.g., books, articles, DVDs and CDs). The entry form must be securely attached, as a cover page, to the front of each entry set and must be clearly visible upon immediate inspection. All supporting materials included in the five collated entry sets (see 3H on entry form) must be in a reproducible, 8-1/2" x 11" size. The ABA may disqualify any submission not meeting these entry requirements.

For all newspaper or magazine entries, one "original" entry (e.g., newspaper or magazine tearsheets) is preferred. The other four copies may be reproduced (e.g., newspapers as 8-1/2" x 11" pages). **Legibility is essential,** even if this requires entry formats larger than 8-1/2" x 11". To facilitate entry, special published reprints of original articles may be submitted.

For entries in the documentaries, television news, and video-based drama and literature categories, submit the five entries on DVDs. **Radio entries** must be submitted on CDs. Clearly mark title, airing information, and running time and delete all commercials, long lead-ins, and breaks.

For any entries with online content, all content must be clearly indicated and remain publicly accessible via a single URL throughout the judging period (January 9–May 15). We also encourage submission of selected online content in either hard copy or DVD/CD formats, as appropriate (five copies).

There is no restriction on the number of entries publishers and producers may submit. **Particular entries, however, may be submitted in only one category.**

Recognizing that certain entries might be eligible under more than one category, the **American Bar Association reserves the right** to consider entries under another category than that submitted. This would be done in order to provide entries with the best opportunity for awards consideration.

Please note that all entry materials become the property of the American Bar Association and will not be returned. Programs or products funded or developed by or in association with the American Bar Association are ineligible for Gavel Awards.

Entry Fees

A fee is required for each entry submitted. The fee for Television Program entries (category 7) is \$125; for all other categories, the fee is \$75. If you would like to request a hardship waiver for entry fees in any category (limited to one entry), please e-mail your request to the American Bar Association, attention Howard Kaplan, at kaplanh@staff.abanet.org. Briefly state the reason for your request. If you are submitting more than one entry,

a single check, payable to the American Bar Association, is preferred (ABA Federal Tax ID #36-0723150). To pay by credit card, call Pamela Hollins at 312.988.5733.

Notification and Awards Presentation

The ABA will notify winners of Gavel Awards by May 15, 2009. ABA President H. Thomas Wells Jr. will present honorees with inscribed Silver Gavels at a special awards presentation event at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on July 1, 2009.

Archive

The Tarlton Law Library, Jamail Center for Legal Research at the University of Texas School of Law houses the permanent Gavel Awards archive for the ABA. The archive also maintains a keyword searchable online archive of Gavel Award winners dating back to 1987 (accessible via the ABA's website at www.abanet.org/publiced/gavel).

AWARD CATEGORIES & SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS



1 BOOKS

Full-length (at least 50,000 words) books of nonfiction published in printed form.



2 MAGAZINES

Any article or series published by a magazine (periodical or journal). Magazines may submit both (or either) print and online content.



3 NEWSPAPERS

Any news article or series published by a newspaper. This category includes investigative, explanatory, and other deadline and nondeadline reporting, as well as features. Newspapers may submit both (or either) print and online content. Open to dailies and weeklies.



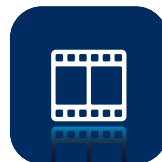
4 COMMENTARY

Open to commentary, editorials, columns, criticism, editorial cartoons, blogs, and other opinion journalism, regardless of medium of production or dissemination (i.e., print, online, video, and audio entries are all eligible).



5 DRAMA and LITERATURE

Open to drama and literature, regardless of medium of production or dissemination (i.e., film, television, books, and other media are all eligible), including docudramas, episodes of dramatic television series, original dramatic films produced for general theatrical release or for television, novels, plays, and short stories.



6 DOCUMENTARIES

Film and video documentaries (nonfiction, unscripted), whether or not they were telecast on television or independently screened. Companion websites may be submitted as part of entries.



7 TELEVISION PROGRAMS

Any nondocumentary video news program telecast by cable, network, or individual television stations. Also eligible are original video webcasts. Companion websites may be submitted as part of entries.



8 RADIO

Any audio program telecast by network, satellite, or individual radio stations. Included in this category are investigative, explanatory, and other deadline and nondeadline reporting, talk radio, and features. Also eligible are original audio webcasts. Companion websites may be submitted as part of entries.



9 WEBSITES

Open to digital media produced originally and primarily for public dissemination on the Internet. Must include substantial new content produced during 2008. Entries should be on a single subject or issue or otherwise address a cohesive theme.

CHECK-OFF LIST for Entry Package for 2009 Silver Gavel Awards

- Did you remember to include all required materials when submitting your entry?
- entry product (required format and five copies)
- completed entry form (five copies)
- attachments for 2B, 3G, and 3H
- supporting materials/transcripts (if pertinent)
- check payable to the American Bar Association for applicable entry fees

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Assigned Entry Number

ENTRY FORM

ABA 2009 SILVER GAVEL AWARDS FOR MEDIA AND THE ARTS

Receipt Deadline: January 7, 2009

Please complete all items on this form and return it with your entry and supporting materials by the deadline. Refer to the program guidelines to ensure that you are meeting all requirements.

1. AWARD CATEGORY

Please write in the appropriate number for the category you are entering. Refer to the "Award Categories" section for guidelines.

2. CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Please indicate below the individual who is your contact for further communications (awards notification, next year's entry materials, etc.):

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Fax Number (_____) _____

E-mail _____

B. Please indicate key creative personnel for your entry (e.g., writer, director, producer, editor, talent). Use a separate sheet of paper (headed #2B, KEY PERSONNEL) to add names. (Please note: the ABA will specifically cite up to five individuals for contributions to entries that receive awards.) You MUST also include contact information for all coproducers/copublishers, if any.

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Fax Number (_____) _____

E-mail _____

3. KEY ENTRY DATA

A. TITLE _____

B. DATE OF PUBLICATION/INITIAL PUBLIC RELEASE _____

C. AUDIENCE Please provide specific figures, if available.

(CIRCULATION [FREQUENCY AND NUMBER], MARKET SHARE, DISTRIBUTION)

D. LENGTH OR DURATION Please indicate word count, page length, or running time, as appropriate. _____

E. WHERE CAN THE PUBLIC FIND YOUR ENTRY? (response required) e.g., online at specific address

F. ENTRY SUMMARY In the space below, please provide a brief summary of your entry (50–75 words). Please make sure it highlights your entry effectively, as it will be used for our program and promotional materials.

G. ENTRY DESCRIPTION On a separate sheet of paper (headed #3G, ENTRY DESCRIPTION), provide a brief description of the entry and indicate how it meets the Gavel Awards objectives and criteria (word limit: 400).

H. SUPPORTING MATERIALS You may also include additional materials to help us evaluate your entry (especially regarding its impact upon the public), such as reviews, media coverage, letters from the public, or reports; transcripts or supplemental materials; previous awards and recognition for entry; and information on entry, producing organization, or key creative personnel. Do not exceed ten 8-1/2" x 11" pages.

4. ENTRY IN BAR-SPONSORED PROGRAMS Yes No
If yes, please indicate on attached sheet (headed #4, BAR ENTRY) which bar association, when the entry was submitted, and whether it won an award or is currently under consideration.

The receipt deadline for entries is January 7, 2009. Submit all entries to the following address:

**2009 Silver Gavel Awards
American Bar Association
Division for Public Education
321 N. Clark Street, Mail Stop 20.2
Chicago, IL 60654-7598**

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information included in the accompanying materials for the 2009 Gavel Awards accurately and truthfully represents our entry, its date of production or public release (MUST be during 2008), and its impact and outreach; and that we have listed all coproducers or copublishers of this entry. Should our entry receive a Gavel Award, I also grant the ABA the nonexclusive right to use, reproduce, or disseminate by any communications medium, elements and excerpts from our entry and related materials for educational and promotional purposes.

Signature _____

Title _____ Date _____