

B. Riney Green Award: Access to Justice Award

PURPOSE

This award is a way to recognize and emphasize the value the access to justice community has for a particular kind of accomplishment – one that promotes state-wide collaboration on a project beyond one organization and strengthens access to justice across the state.

HISTORY

One of the strengths of the provision of legal service in Tennessee has been the historic tradition of working together, across program lines, to address common problems that clients and programs face. To recognize and encourage those efforts, a person who promotes inter-program cooperation or otherwise strengthens the provision of legal aid in Tennessee is annually named the B. Riney Green Award recipient.

B. Riney Green

In the late 1990s B. Riney Green, a Nashville attorney, relentlessly led Tennessee's effort to prevent the U.S. House and Senate from adopting provisions that would reduce funding to legal services and increase restrictions on legal aid programs. As a corporate lawyer and a Republican, he was a new and credible voice in this effort. He successfully engaged others in his effort and had access to representatives from across the party and ideological spectrum. His efforts in this state not only improved relations with the Congressional delegation, but were essential to the successful national effort to resist these legislative attacks. This award is named to honor his contribution at a critical time in the history of legal services in Tennessee and the nation.

HOW TO NOMINATE SOMEONE

The 2025 nomination cycle has closed.

PAST WINNERS

2025	Chay Sengkhoumany
2024	Amy Willoughby Bryant
2023	Allison Jones & Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lytle
2022	Tessa Lemos Del Pino, Bethany Jackson & Karla McKanders
2021	No Award Given
2020	Spring Miller & Emily Stotts

2019	Jeannie Kosciolek
2018	Marcia Eason & Gary Housepian
2017	Carol Gish & Ashley Holliday
2016	Craig Barnes & Russell Fowler
2015	Lenny Croce
2014	Theresa Vay-Smith
2013	Gordon Bonnyman & Harrison McIver III
2012	Margaret Behm
2011	Beth Bates & Russ Overby
2010	David Tarpley
2009	Adinah Robertson
2008	Pam Ford Wright & Bill Bush
2007	Frank Cantrell
2006	Sherry Wilds
2005	Jennifer Jean Rosenbaum & Steve Xanthopoulos
2004	Mary Michelle Gillum
2003	Doug Blaze
2002	Pat Mock
2001	Stewart Clifton, Bill Haley & Mike Murphy
2000	Linda Seely & Patti George
1999	Bonnie King, Gloria Samuels & Christine Wolfe

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