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# Janice M. Holder Award: Access to Justice Award

## PURPOSE

**The Janice M. Holder Award** seeks to recognize a professional whose work in private practice, corporate practice, public service or other social service has made significant contributions in advancing the quality of justice statewide by ensuring the legal system is open and available to all. This award is intended for professionals not focused on daily legal aid advocacy.

## HISTORY



This Access to Justice Award is named in honor of retired Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Janice M. Holder who personifies the qualities that this Award recognizes. She served as the first female chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, is a passionate leader in Tennessee's Access to Justice initiative, a courageous champion of the rights of the historically marginalized, and a dedicated servant to the people

of this state. In 2008, the Tennessee Supreme Court launched its Access to Justice Initiative. Under her leadership, the court hired a full-time access to justice coordinator, created the website - [www.justiceforalltn.com](http://www.justiceforalltn.com), and created the Access to Justice Commission. She is the 2014 winner of the William M. Leech Jr. Public Service Award and continues to support access to justice causes in her retirement.

## HOW TO NOMINATE SOMEONE

**The 2025 nomination cycle has closed.**

## PAST AWARD WINNERS

2025	Christy Harness
2024	Lucinda Smith
2023	Judge Suzanne Bauknight
2022	J. Houston Gordon and Zulfat Suara
2021	Judge Rachel Bell
2020	Justice Cornelia A. Clark
2019	Deborah Taylor Tate
2018	Former Justice Frank F. Drowota, III & Amber Floyd
2017	Larry Bridgesmith & Cat Moon
2016	Jim Barry & Sharon Ryan
2015	David R. Yoder
2014	George T. "Buck" Lewis (inaugural winner)

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