MEMORANDUM

TO: NCBA Board of Governors and Local Bar Presidents

FROM: Leila A. Hicks
Young Lawyers Division Law Week Committee
Liberty Bell Subcommittee Chair

DATE: December 13, 2019

RE: 2020 LIBERTY BELL AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Liberty Bell Award Subcommittee of the Young Lawyers Division’s Law Week Committee is seeking nominations for the Liberty Bell Award to be presented at the Law Day Ceremony on May 1, 2020. Any name(s) that you or members of your district wish to present should be postmarked and mailed c/o Leila A. Hicks, 280 S. Mangum St., Suite 400, Durham, NC 27701 or emailed to lhicks@farrin.com, no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, for presentation to the committee.

Law Day was inspired by Charles S. Rhyne, President of the American Bar Association, in 1957-58, who practiced law in Washington, D.C. President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed May 1, 1958 as the first Law Day. Every year since, the President has officially proclaimed May 1 as Law Day throughout the United States.

The North Carolina Bar Association and its Young Lawyers Division, through formal proclamation by the Governor of North Carolina, celebrate Law Day on the first Friday in May. The NCBA’s observance of Law Day is scheduled for May 1, 2020.
Most recently, the Committee has been pleased to announce Judge Earl Britt, Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Major Gen. James B. Mallory III (Ret.), Honorable Sammie Chess Jr., Honorable Beth Keever, Chief Judge Linda McGee, Judge James A. Wynn Jr. and Chief Justice Mark Martin as the recipients of the Liberty Bell Award in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. Other past recipients of the Award include Judge Lacy H. Thornburg, Governor Jim Hunt, William Friday, Terry Sanford, Judge Sam Ervin, Chief Justice Susie Sharp, Chief Justice Joseph Branch, Chief Justice Henry Frye, Justice Frank Huskins, Judge Franklin Dupree, Judge Robert Browning, Judge Hiram Ward, Katherine Robinson Everett, Congressman L. Richardson Preyer, Judge Herbert L. Richardson, Thad Eure, Sr., and Stacy C. Eggers, Jr., not to mention many other fine recipients. The recipient should be someone who exemplifies lifelong service to the law in North Carolina.

Many districts choose to get together and vote on one or more nominees, while others do so less formally. Additionally, individual members of the Bar or non-attorneys may nominate candidates. We encourage all districts statewide to participate. As we celebrate the sixty-second anniversary of Law Day and this year’s theme of “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100”, we encourage submissions reflecting the theme in our State. We request that full information be given about each candidate’s qualifications, including a resume or brief description of the nominee’s career accomplishments. A Nomination Form is provided to assist you but is not meant to limit you.

Please feel free to contact me at the email address listed above, should you have any questions.

Thank you.

Enclosures