

## WLAQ WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Awards recognise, encourage and support the endeavours and contributions of women lawyers in Queensland. The following provides the criteria and nomination process for the Leneen Forde AC Woman Lawyer of the Year Award, the Emergent Woman Lawyer of the Year Award and the Regional Woman Lawyer of the Year Award.

This information does not address the WLAQ Woman of Excellence Award (which is given at the discretion of the WLAQ Executive Committee) and the WLAQ Trailblazer of the Year Award (which is given at the discretion of the Awards Panel).

### 1. Eligibility:

Any woman holding a law degree who is actively involved in the legal profession, or a law-related field, in Queensland (including private practice, community legal service work, government, academia, in-house or self-employed) is eligible to be nominated. Specific eligibility criteria applies to the following awards:

- (a) "Emergent" means, as at the date of the Awards, the nominee has been admitted as a legal practitioner for five years or less, or if not admitted, graduated with a law degree not more than seven years ago.
- (b) "Regional" means anywhere outside a 50km radius of Brisbane, and includes Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. For completeness, Ipswich and Caboolture are part of Brisbane.

A current member of the WLAQ Executive and/or Management Committee is not eligible to be nominated. All other persons affiliated with WLAQ are eligible for nomination.

### 2. Nomination Material

Nomination material is to be presented in a pdf format and include:

- (a) Cover letter addressed to The WLAQ Awards Panel, confirming that the nominee accepts the nomination and signed by the nominator (1 page)
- (b) Curriculum Vitae (no more than 2 pages).
- (c) Response to Criteria (no more than 5 pages).
- (d) Supporting material, including letters of support, articles or other documents addressing the Criteria (no more than 10 pages).

### 3. Criteria:

#### LENEEN FORDE AC WLAQ WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Response to Criteria must address:

- (a) how the nominee has demonstrated professional excellence and integrity to become a leader in her field.
- (b) how the nominee has advanced the position of women in the legal profession, or generally through her work or activities.
- (c) what the nominee sees as an impediment to the progression of women in the legal profession and what could be done to overcome it.

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### WLAQ EMERGENT WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Response to Criteria must address:

- (a) how the nominee has established herself in the legal profession as an emergent lawyer.
- (b) what the nominee sees as an impediment to the progression of women in the legal profession and what could be done to overcome it.
- (c) a specific example of how the nominee has dealt with a challenging issue as a junior female member of the profession.

### WLAQ REGIONAL WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Response to Criteria must address:

- (a) how the nominee has advanced the position of women in the legal profession, or generally through her work or activities.
- (b) what the nominee sees as an impediment to the progression of women in the legal profession and what could be done to overcome it
- (c) a specific example of how the nominee has personally dealt with a challenge related to working in Regional Queensland.

#### **4. Submission of Nomination Material**

The Nomination Material is to be uploaded to [www.wlaq.com.au/annual-awards](http://www.wlaq.com.au/annual-awards) and must not be more than 5MB in total. Hardcopy submissions will not be accepted.

#### **5. Awards Panel**

The identity of the Awards Panel remains anonymous, is not known to the WLAQ Committee (except for the President and Immediate Past President), and could include representatives from the Supreme, District and Magistrate Courts, the Federal Court of Australia, the Federal Circuit of Australia, the Family Court of Australia, a senior member from the Bar Association of Queensland or a senior member of the Queensland Law Society. The decision of the Awards Panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

#### **6. Closing Date**

The nomination closing date is as listed at [www.wlaq.com.au/annual-awards](http://www.wlaq.com.au/annual-awards). Nominations received after that time will not be considered.

#### **7. Announcement**

The finalists will be notified within 7 days of the nomination closing date, with the winners announced at the Annual Awards Dinner.