



# NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

*Established in 1969 to Strengthen and Enhance Tribal Justice Systems*

## NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION 2019 AWARDS SOLICITATION

The National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) Board of Directors is soliciting nominations for four (4) NAICJA awards: the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Judicial Excellence Award, the Court Support Excellence Award and the Outstanding Service Award. The award criteria are detailed below. Please use the 2019 NAICJA Award Nomination form (at the end of this document).

If a nomination was submitted in prior years and the nominator wishes for that prior nomination to be considered (and the person nominated continues to meet the award criteria), please contact NAICJA 1st Vice-President Kevin Briscoe at [kbriscoe@choctaw.org](mailto:kbriscoe@choctaw.org) or at (601) 650-1658.

**Nominations close at the end of the day on Friday, August 30, 2019.** The awards will be announced and presented during the **50th National Tribal Judicial and Court Personnel Conference, October 16-18, 2019** at the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel in Prior Lake Minnesota. See conference information by [clicking here](#).

Established in 1969, NAICJA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization of present and former tribal court judges, court personnel and other tribal justice system supporters from approximately 300 tribal courts throughout the United States. NAICJA provides support, continuing education and technical assistance to tribal justice systems and seeks to further public knowledge and understanding of tribal courts.

### NAICJA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The NAICJA Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to honor a tribal court judge, peacemaker or other tribal system adjudicator of disputes who has worked in tribal justice for at least twenty (20) years as a judge, peacemaker or other adjudicator of disputes and who demonstrates the following:

- Be in good standing and held in high esteem in his or her profession,
- Demonstrates outstanding qualities of judicial excellence, including integrity, fairness, knowledge of tribal law, traditions and customs, creativity, sound judgment, intellectual courage and decisiveness,
- Has freely shared his or her knowledge and experience to support tribal justice systems and/or to educate the public about tribal justice systems,
- Has made a significant contribution to support and advance tribal jurisprudence through adjudications, peacemaking, writing, teaching or advocacy on behalf of tribal justice systems.

## NAICJA JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The NAICJA Judicial Excellence Award is awarded to honor a tribal court judge, peacemaker or other tribal system adjudicator of disputes who demonstrates the following qualities:

- Five (5) years of experience serving in a tribal justice system,
- Efficiently, expeditiously and objectively handles cases and dockets,
- Exhibits fidelity to tribal law, values, traditions and customs,
- Takes innovative steps to address a variety of issues affecting the community,
- Explains the law in terms understood by everyone in the courtroom,
- Exemplifies the highest standards of judicial ethics and excellence throughout his or her career,
- Respected by and has the confidence of the judiciary, bar, litigants, court personnel and community members,
- Must be an “Active Member” of NAICJA as defined by NAICJA Bylaws, Article III, Section 1(a).

## NAICJA COURT SUPPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD

The NAICJA Court Support Excellence Award is awarded to honor a person serving a tribal justice system in a non-judicial clerical or administrative role who demonstrates the following:

- Three (3) or more years of experience serving in a tribal justice system,
- Exemplary performance which consistently displays professionalism and the pursuit of excellence,
- Exhibits daily commitment to compassionate public service,
- Shows leadership by taking innovative steps to improve the administration of justice,
- Brings honor or public awareness to the tribal justice system he or she serves,
- Respected by and has the confidence of the judiciary, bar, litigants, court personnel and community members,
- Must be a current NAICJA member as defined by NAICJA Bylaws, Article III, Section 1.

## NAICJA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

The NAICJA Outstanding Service Award is awarded to honor a NAICJA Active, Associate or Supporting Member who has accomplished the following:

- Contributed to the sustainability and enhancement of NAICJA,
- Recruited new NAICJA members,
- Developed a positive rapport between NAICJA, other judicial or American Indian/Alaska Native organizations, or state and federal entities,
- Develops significant outside relationships beneficial to NAICJA,
- Promotes NAICJA’s mission and goals,
- Must be a NAICJA member as defined by NAICJA Bylaws, Article III, Section 1.

Please submit nominations at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NAICJA2019>  
by the end of the day, Friday, August 30, 2019.