



YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

KENTUCKY BAR ASSOCIATION

NATHANIEL R. HARPER AWARD

The Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyers Division is seeking nominations for the Nathaniel R. Harper Award. The Award seeks to recognize those individuals or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to changing the face of the Kentucky Bar by promoting full and equal participation in the legal profession through the encouragement and inclusion of women, minorities, persons with disabilities, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community and/or other unrepresented or underrepresented groups.

The Award is named for Nathaniel R. Harper, one of the first African-Americans to be admitted to the practice of law in Kentucky. Because African-Americans were excluded from law schools in the Commonwealth at the time of Harper's admission, he established the Harper Law School in his law office, where he trained and helped produce several African-American lawyers. It is Harper's pioneering spirit and sense of responsibility to pave the way for others that the Award seeks to honor.

To nominate a lawyer, non-lawyer, or organization for the Nathaniel R. Harper Award, please submit a nomination letter explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award. Please limit the nomination letter to no more than three pages. The nomination letter should include the following:

- a) Details regarding the nominee's efforts to promote the inclusion of unrepresented or underrepresented groups in the Kentucky Bar, and how the nominee's approach to increasing this participation and inclusion was innovative;
- b) Description of the nominee's impact on the inclusion of unrepresented or underrepresented groups in the Kentucky Bar;
- c) Description of how the nominee has, through the nominee's own achievements, paved the way for unrepresented or underrepresented attorneys in the profession, including any obstacles the nominee overcame to reach these goals; and
- d) Whether the nominee has previously been recognized for their efforts to increase participation and inclusion in the Kentucky Bar or the practice of law, and if so, what type of recognition and when it was received.

To nominate an individual for the 2025 Nathaniel R. Harper Award, please submit a completed nomination form and any supporting materials **by noon on February 20, 2026**. Letters should be emailed as an attachment to yldvicechair@kybar.org.

The Nathaniel R. Harper Award recipient will be honored at the KBA Annual Convention, June 11-12, 2026 in Covington, Kentucky. The Award will be presented at the Young Lawyers Division luncheon during the Annual Convention. If you have any questions, please contact yldvicechair@kybar.org for more information.