Oklahoma CASA Association

2014 Awards of Excellence
Call for Nominations

Nominations must be received by
January 15, 2014

In order to have a winner, three (3) nominations must be received in each category. For example, we must have three separate nominations (meaning each one from a different program) for Board Member in order to assign a winner.

Send to:

Oklahoma CASA 2014 Annual Awards
P.O. Box 54946
Oklahoma City, OK 73154

Or email to: SerenaH@OklahomaCASA.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
405-524-8999 or 1-800-742-2272
Oklahoma CASA Association –
CASA Volunteer of the Year

Who is eligible?
CASA volunteer advocates who have made significant voluntary contributions to abused and neglected children and CASA are eligible for nomination. This award will be exemplified by an individual CASA volunteer, or a partnered team of CASA volunteers, who have consistently demonstrated professionalism, integrity, and who have selflessly gone above and beyond the call of duty for a CASA volunteer.

Criteria for selection:
- Exemplifies a high level of ethics and respect for their role as a CASA volunteer.
- Demonstrates exceptional diligence, thoroughness and persistence in fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of a CASA.
- Promotes and supports CASA in the local community.

TO ENTER:
Complete each of the following and mail to the Oklahoma CASA Association, or email the completed nomination materials to SerenaH@OklahomaCASA.org by January 15, 2014.

☐ Nomination form
☐ Nomination essay addressing the nominee’s qualifications for the award.

Please provide a one to two (1-2) page narrative (in 12pt font) addressing the following questions:

1. Introduce the CASA volunteer and describe how long the volunteer has served the program, how many children have been served; number of cases to which the volunteer has been assigned, and any non-identifying special circumstances the CASA has successfully navigated. Give a case example of how the volunteer has had a significant impact on the life of a child.

2. Discuss the CASA volunteer’s dedication to the role of a CASA for children in the community. Address how the volunteer successfully meets the call to Investigate, Facilitate, Advocate, and Monitor the case(s) to which he/she has been assigned. Please be sure to address each role of the CASA, specifically. Give an example of the CASA volunteer’s ethics and respect for their role, as a CASA.

3. Discuss how the volunteer’s personal strengths and skills make him/her an effective child advocate. Include an example of how the volunteer has inspired others to serve children and families more completely.

4. Describe the CASA volunteer’s effectiveness in the courtroom, a key component of the Court Appointed Special Advocate role.

5. Describe how the volunteer promotes or supports CASA in the community.

Nominee’s Name ____________________________ CASA Program ______________________

Nominee’s Address ____________________________

City, State, Zip ____________________________

Phone ____________________________ Fax ____________________________

Email ____________________________

Nominated by ____________________________ Agency Affiliation ____________________________

Address ____________________________ City, State, Zip ____________________________

Phone ____________________________ Fax ____________________________

☐ Check here if you would like your nomination to remain anonymous, however we do need your contact information for our records.

MAIL TO: OKLAHOMA CASA 2014 ANNUAL AWARDS, P. O. BOX 54946, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73154
Oklahoma CASA Association –
Judge of the Year

At the heart of every successful CASA Program is the support and commitment of a dedicated Judge. The Oklahoma CASA Association honors the outstanding contribution of a Judge who has promoted the best interest of children through the use of CASA.

Who is eligible?
Any judge who has significantly helped abused and neglected children through work with a CASA program is eligible for nomination.

Criteria for selection:
The Court Appointed Special Advocate movement was started in Seattle, WA, in 1977 by Judge David Soukup, who was committed to the use of community volunteers to provide him a new perception of the cases over which he was presiding. Like Judge Soukup, the recipient of this award will:

- Demonstrate effective and inspiring leadership on child abuse and neglect cases.
- Demonstrate innovation in promoting CASA within the judicial community and to the public.
- Demonstrate support for the CASA Advocate’s role in advocating for the child’s best interest and support in preparing volunteers for the role.
- Significantly contribute to the advancement of children’s issues across the local community.

TO ENTER:
Complete each of the following and mail to the Oklahoma CASA Association, or email the completed nomination materials to SerenaH@OklahomaCASA.org by January 15, 2014.

☐ Nomination form
☐ Nomination essay addressing the nominee’s qualifications for the award.

Please provide a one to two (1-2) page narrative (in 12pt font) describing how the judge fulfills the criteria stated above.

Nominee’s Name_________________________________________ Judicial District, County_____________________

Nominee’s Address__________________________________________

City, State, Zip_________________________________________________________________________________

Phone_________________________________________ Fax_________________________________________

Email_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Nominated by:______________________________ Agency Affiliation:_________________________________________

Address_________________________________________ City, State, Zip_______________________________

Phone_________________________________________ Fax_________________________________________

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MAIL TO: OKLAHOMA CASA 2014 ANNUAL AWARDS, P. O. BOX 54946, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73154
Oklahoma CASA Association – Child Advocate of the Year

The Oklahoma CASA Association will recognize any Oklahoman who demonstrates dedication to the vulnerable, abused, or neglected children of the state through advocacy and support of children’s issues.

Who is eligible?
Any person who is an ally for vulnerable, abused, or neglected children and who advocates for the safety, well-being and general support of children in Oklahoma is eligible for nomination.

Criteria for selection:
Persons who receive this award are likely professionals in the child and family services arena (therapist, case managers, support staff, non-attorney children’s court professionals, CASA program staff member or member of a Board of Directors, etc.) or community members who are actively involved in a variety of child and family service organizations or efforts, etc. The recipient of this award will:

- Exemplify the term “advocate” through his/her staunch support of issues significant for the most vulnerable, abused or neglected children in the state.
- Heighten community awareness of issues facing abused and neglected children.
- Support community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Support the successful and smooth transitions of children in the foster care and adoption systems.
- Consistently go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of children who are in the foster care and adoption system, who are victims of abuse or neglect, represent significant mental health, behavioral health, educational and social services needs.

TO ENTER:
Complete each of the following and mail to the Oklahoma CASA Association, or email the completed nomination materials to SerenaH@OklahomaCASA.org by January 15, 2014.

☐ Nomination form
☐ Nomination essay addressing the nominee’s qualifications for the award.

Please provide a one to two (1-2) page narrative (in 12pt font) with descriptions and examples of how this individual has fulfilled the criteria stated above.

Nominee’s Name ____________________________________________________________
Agency Affiliation_________________________________________________________________

Nominee’s Address ____________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________________________

Phone __________________________________ Fax __________________________________________

Email ______________________________________________________________________________

Nominated by: ___________________________________ Agency Affiliation: __________________________

Address __________________________ City, State, Zip _________________________________

Phone __________________________ Fax _________________________________

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MAIL TO: OKLAHOMA CASA 2014 ANNUAL AWARDS, P. O. BOX 54946, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73154
Oklahoma CASA Association – Child Protective Services Worker of the Year

The Oklahoma CASA Association will recognize a Child Protective Services worker for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services who demonstrates dedication to the vulnerable, abused, or neglected children of the state through strong advocacy and support of the children to whom they are assigned.

Who is eligible?
Any Child Protective Services employee of Oklahoma Department of Human Services who consistently goes above and beyond for the children to whom they are assigned as a case worker is eligible for nomination.

Criteria for selection:
Professionals who receive this award:
• Consistently represents the best interest and needs of children to whom he/she is assigned.
• Communicates efficiently, effectively and with integrity with all partners to ensure the needs of children are met in a timely manner.
• Consistently participates in collaborative efforts with all child welfare partners to move cases forward to the most viable and reasonable case plan goal.
• Consistently go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of children to provide stability of placement and care, to advocate for the child(ren) in court and in the community and to ensure children maintain connections to kin, culture, and community.

TO ENTER:
Complete each of the following and mail to the Oklahoma CASA Association, or email the completed nomination materials to SerenaH@OklahomaCASA.org by January 15, 2014.

☐ Nomination form
☐ Nomination essay addressing the nominee’s qualifications for the award.

Please provide a one to two (1-2) page narrative (in 12pt font) with descriptions and examples of how the case worker fulfills the criteria stated above.

Nominee’s Name __________________________________________ OKDHS Office/County _________________________
Nominee’s Address ______________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone_________________________ Fax ________________________________
Email ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
Nominated by: __________________________ Agency Affiliation: __________________________
Address ______________________________________________________ City, State, Zip____________________________
Phone_________________________ Fax ________________________________
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MAIL TO: OKLAHOMA CASA 2014 ANNUAL AWARDS, P. O. BOX 54946, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73154
The Oklahoma CASA Association will recognize an Oklahoma attorney who practices regularly in children’s court cases, vehemently representing his/her clients with integrity and consistency.

Who is eligible?
Any attorney who practices in Oklahoma children’s court is eligible for nomination.

Criteria for selection:
The recipient of this award:
- Consistently represents their client in court with integrity.
- Actively participates in the case proceedings, in and out of the courtroom.
- Maintains regular contact with clients.
- Advocates for the fair and ethical implementation for case plan goals and court orders for clients.
- Demonstrates a respect for the laws of Oklahoma and the nation, specifically, as the law pertains to the protection of children.

TO ENTER:
Complete each of the following and mail to the Oklahoma CASA Association, or email the completed nomination materials to SerenaH@OklahomaCASA.org by January 15, 2014.
- Nomination form
- Nomination essay addressing the nominee’s qualifications for the award.

Please provide a one to two (1-2) page narrative (in 12pt font), describing how the attorney fulfills the criteria stated above.

Nominee’s Name__________________________ County/Jurisdiction__________________________

Nominee’s Address__________________________

City, State, Zip______________________________

Phone_________________________________ Fax_____________________________________

Email___________________________________

Nominated by: ____________________________ Agency Affiliation: ____________________________

Address_________________________________ City, State, Zip______________________________

Phone_________________________________ Fax_____________________________________

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MAIL TO: OKLAHOMA CASA 2014 ANNUAL AWARDS, P. O. BOX 54946, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  73154
Oklahoma CASA Association – Foster Parent(s) of the Year

The Oklahoma CASA Association will recognize any Oklahoma foster family who consistently provides for the best interests of children in care, while supporting completion of case plan goals toward reunification and/or adoption, as necessary, while staying committed to consistency of care for children.

Who is eligible?
Any Oklahoma foster family, sponsored by OKDHS or a private foster care contract agency, either therapeutic or non-therapeutic level of care, who demonstrates excellence in foster parenting is eligible for nomination.

Criteria for selection:
The recipient of this award

- Consistently provides for the best interests of children in care through the provision of quality foster care in their home, keeping children safe, providing a stable and secure placement.
- Actively participates and collaborates with providers in case planning and implementation efforts to support reunification of children with their biological parents, when safe and feasible, and to support smooth transitions to other permanent placements when reunification is deemed no longer viable.
- Demonstrates a willingness to seek out additional community supports to provide stability of placement for children in care.
- Demonstrates a willingness to seek out additional community supports to enhance a child’s educational experience and to help meet the mental health, behavioral, or social needs of children placed in the home.
- Consistently go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of children who are in the foster care and adoption system.

TO ENTER:
Complete each of the following and mail to the Oklahoma CASA Association, or email the completed nomination materials to SerenaH@OklahomaCASA.org by January 15, 2014.

- Nomination form
- Nomination essay addressing the nominee’s qualifications for the award.

Please provide a one to two (1-2) page narrative (in 12pt font) describing how the foster family fulfills the criteria stated above.

Nominee’s Name_________________________________________ Agency Affiliation______________________________

Nominee’s Address____________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip_____________________________________________________________________________________

Phone________________________________ Fax_____________________________________________________________

Email________________________________________________________________________________________

Nominated by:_________________________________________ Agency Affiliation:_______________________________

Address_________________________________________________________________________________________ City, State, Zip______________________________

Phone________________________________ Fax_____________________________________________________________

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MAIL TO: OKLAHOMA CASA 2014 ANNUAL AWARDS, P. O. BOX 54946, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73154
Oklahoma CASA Association – Youth with Ambition Award

The Oklahoma CASA Association will recognize one young person who epitomizes a positive youth experience. The Oklahoma CASA Association believes in the youth of Oklahoma and wants to recognize and encourage youth who have demonstrated a desire to move beyond past circumstances as they transition into adulthood.

Who is eligible?
Any young person, age 15-21, who demonstrates a desire to transition successfully into adulthood through positive decision making, commitment to education and to positive community involvement are eligible. Nominated youth must be, or have been, associated with OKDHS.

Criteria for selection:
Youth who receive this award will represent ambition in that he/she will be recognized for indicators of future excellence or achievement. The recipient of this award will:

- Demonstrate positive decision-making. (Some examples might include peer associations, avoidance of drugs and alcohol, positive behaviors, leadership skills, etc.)
- Demonstrate a commitment to his/her education and will put forth their best effort in academic pursuits.
- Demonstrate a commitment to positive community involvement through participation in extra-curricular activities, academic or non-academic.

TO ENTER:
Complete each of the following and mail to the Oklahoma CASA Association, or email the completed nomination materials to SerenaH@OklahomaCASA.org by January 15, 2014.

- Nomination form
- Nomination essay addressing the nominee’s qualifications for the award.
- Letter of support from another positive adult in the youth’s life (a teacher, caregiver, coach, case worker, etc). All identifying information must be removed prior to submission.

Please provide a one to two (1-2) page narrative (in 12pt font) describing how the youth fulfills the criteria stated above.

IN ORDER TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY: Please do not use the youth’s name in nomination process. Refer to nominee as “youth” in narrative. The person making the nomination will be notified if the nominee is selected for the award and will be asked to obtain signatures from the selected youth and all legal guardians to acknowledge acceptance and authorize public recognition of youth.

OKDHS Office/County

OKDHS Case Worker Assigned to the Youth:

Case Worker’s Address

City, State, Zip Email

Phone Fax

Nominated by: Agency Affiliation:

Address City, State, Zip

Phone Fax

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