Federal Bar Council

Learned Hand Award

Established by the Federal Bar Council in 1962

The Council presents an annual medal for "Excellence in Federal Jurisprudence" designated the Learned Hand Medal, in memory of the late distinguished jurist. The medal is traditionally presented at the Law Day Dinner.

2026 – Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco

2025 – Circuit Judge Richard J. Sullivan

2024 – Circuit Judge Raymond Lohier, Jr.

2023 – Justice Sonia Sotomayor

2022 – Circuit Judge Denny Chin

2021 – Circuit Judge Debra A. Livingston

2020 – no medal conferred (due to COVID)

2019 – Judge Guido Calabresi

2018 – Judge Jed S. Rakoff

2017 – Judge Richard C. Wesley

2016 –Judge Gerard E. Lynch.

2015 – Justice Clarence Thomas

2014 – Justice Stephen G. Breyer

2013 – Judge Barrington D. Parker

2012 – Judge Robert A. Katzmann

2011 – Justice John Paul Stevens

2010 – Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr

2009 – Judge Lewis A. Kaplan

2008 – Judge Robert D. Sack

2007 – Judge Reena Raggi

2006 – Judge Edward R. Korman

2005 – Judge Richard A. Posner

2004 – Judge Michael B. Mukasey

2003 – Judge Dennis Jacobs

2002 – Judge John M. Walker, Jr.

2001 – Justice Anthony M. Kennedy

2000 – Judge José A. Cabranes

1999 – Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

1998 – Professor Charles Alan Wright

1997 – Judge Pierre N. Leval

1996 – Judge Ralph K. Winter

1995 – Judge Amalya L. Kearse

1994 – Judge Thomas J. Meskill

1993 – Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

1992 – Judge Leonard B. Sand

1991 – Justice Antonin Scalia

1990 – Justice Harry A. Blackmun

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1989 – Judge Morris A. Lasker

1988 – Professor Gerald Gunther

1987 – Judge Jon O. Newman

1986 – Judge Jack B. Weinstein

1985 – Professor Herbert Wechsler

1984 – Judge Edward T. Gignoux

1983 – Judge James L. Oakes

1982 – Judge Wilfred Feinberg

1981 – Judge Walter R. Mansfield

1980 – Judge John F. Dooling, Jr.

1979 – Professor Walter Gellhorn

1978 – Professor Paul A. Freund

1977 – Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

1976 – Judge Edward H. Levi

1975 – Justice Thurgood Marshall

1974 – Judge Irving R. Kaufman

1973 – Judge Edward Weinfeld

1972 – Judge Henry J. Friendly

1971 – Justice Warren E. Burger

1970 – U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers

1969 – U.S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr.

1968 – Justice William J. Brennan, Jr.

1967 – Justice John M. Harlan

1966 – Justice Abe Fortas

1965 – Judge Harold R. Medina

1964 – Judge J. Edward Lumbard, Jr.

1963 – Justice Arthur J. Goldberg

1962 – Professor James William Moore