

The **Ella B. Family Justice Award** recognizes efforts to advance high quality representation for low-income parents and caregivers threatened with the temporary or permanent loss of their children to state custody. The award is named for the N.Y. Court of Appeals case that established the right of indigent parents to assigned counsel in child welfare proceedings, *In Re Ella B.*, 30 N.Y.2d 352 (1972) (codified in 1975 in Fam. Ct. Act §§ 261 and 262). Sponsored by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services, the award will be announced at the *Families Matter* Statewide Family Defender Conference on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at Albany Law School.

**Award Eligibility and Criteria:** Nominees may be attorneys or non-attorney professionals (e.g., social worker, investigator, parent advocate, legislator, policy advocate, etc.) working to advance high quality representation for low-income parents in child protective and/or termination of parental rights proceedings. The nominee must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Advancement of high quality representation in accordance with one or more provisions of the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services *Standards for Parental Representation in State Intervention Matters* (<http://www.ils.ny.gov/files/Parental%20Representation%20Standards%20Final%20110615.pdf>)
- Outstanding fidelity to client-centered representation (see, for example New York State Defenders Association *Client-Centered Representation Standards* ([http://66.109.34.102/docs/PDFs/Pre2010/05\\_ClientCenteredStandards.pdf](http://66.109.34.102/docs/PDFs/Pre2010/05_ClientCenteredStandards.pdf)); *From Rights to Reality: A Plan for Parent Advocacy and Family Centered Child Welfare Reform* ([http://www.risemagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/From\\_Rights\\_to\\_Reality.pdf](http://www.risemagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/From_Rights_to_Reality.pdf)))
- Generous collaboration with colleagues to achieve justice for families

**Nomination packets should include the following:**

- **Nomination Information Form** (<https://www.ils.ny.gov/content/family-court-representation>) as the first page in the nomination packet.
- **Letter of Nomination** (not to exceed three pages, double-spaced) including:
  - Explanation of how the nominee fits the criteria for the Ella B. Family Justice Award,
  - Detailed description of the nominee's achievements, and
  - Particular activities or events exemplifying WHY the nominee should receive the award.
- **Nominee's Resume**, if available; and
- **Other supporting documents**, if available (for example, newspaper clippings or publicity received, etc.).

**Submitting the Nomination:** Nominations and supporting documents must be received by close of business, **Monday, April 9, 2018**. Nominations may be submitted via email, regular mail, or other delivery service to:

**Email:** [angela.burton@ils.ny.gov](mailto:angela.burton@ils.ny.gov) (attach documents in **PDF** format)

**Regular mail/delivery:**

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