



2027 EMIL GUMPERT AWARD APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

The Emil Gumpert Award recognizes programs, public or private, whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration of justice. The programs considered may be associated with courts, law schools, bar associations or any other organization that provides such a program. In addition to looking for programs that are compatible with the basic mission statement, the Emil Gumpert Award Committee pays particular attention to the following factors in evaluating applications:

- Does the project maintain or improve the administration of justice?
- Does the project serve an important public need?
- Is the program new and innovative?
- Precisely how will the award money be spent by the applicant?
- Will the applicant accomplish its intended goal without the award money?
- Can the applicant's project serve as a model for wider application?

The Committee generally does not favor applications that:

- Seek funds for general operating expenses
- Support existing programs
- Add new employees who perform the pre-existing work of the applicant

The maximum award amount is \$150,000 for the 2026 Award.

Applications should be submitted to the National Office of the American College of Trial Lawyers by the deadline date as a PDF attachment in an email to:

gumpertaward@actl.com

Applicants for the Emil Gumpert Award should complete the application thoroughly, attaching additional pages as necessary to complete any given question. Applicants are invited to submit any additional helpful information, such as statement of purpose, financial data and letters of support, in PDF format. Letters of support from persons or groups outside the organization, such as a partner organization, judge, local government agency or community group, or esteemed member of the community, may also be included with the application.

A Fellow or Committee of the College may nominate a program. The nomination should take the form of a letter that explains the relationship of the nominator to the applicant and the nominator's support of the program. The nominator's letter may be included with the organization's application, and must be submitted by the deadline noted above. A nomination is not required for an application to be considered.

The Award funds will be presented in one lump sum, but the entire grant need not be spent in the year in which it is awarded. For example, an organization may propose to use the funds to support a program over a span of two years.

The winner of the Award will be notified in March 2027. All other applicants will be notified of the decision at that time.

The winner is required to provide a report one year after the disbursement explaining how the award money was used.

Questions may be directed to Amy Mrugalski at amrugalski@actl.com or gumpertaward@actl.com