

# MISSISSIPPI JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MJJAC) 2019 SPIRIT OF YOUTH AWARD

## **PURPOSE:**

The MSJJAC seeks to establish an annual award entitled, "Spirit of Youth Award" to recognize and celebrate a young adult who has made great strides following their involvement in the juvenile justice system, has overcome personal obstacles, and is today making significant contributions to society.

The Spirit of Youth Award, modeled after the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Spirit of Youth Award, provides the MJJAC and the public with an important opportunity to learn from a young person's direct experience about the hard work and dedication it takes to build a better life, and how juvenile justice professionals and systems can most effectively be of help. Important questions can be answered, such as: What worked? What could have been done better? Why were you able to make such a big change?

## **CRITERIA:**

The award recipient must be:

- Under the age of 28 years
- Not a member of the MSJJAC
- A person who was involved in the court system as a juvenile offender
- Currently involved, directly or indirectly, in bettering the lives of at risk youth

## **NOMINATIONS:**

Members of the MSJJAC will promote the Spirit of Youth Award by distributing nomination forms to the Youth Courts, Juvenile Detention Centers, Division of Youth Services, Community-based Organizations, and Sub-grantees. The overall idea of the Spirit of Youth Award will also be highlighted through media endeavors.

All nomination forms will be submitted using a standard application (see attached) and submitted to the address listed on the application. The MSJJAC will recognize appropriate boundaries of confidentiality when handling application forms as well as personal or sensitive information about nominees.

A sub-committee of the MSJJAC will review and discuss all nominations, and identify three top candidates ranked in order of preference. The sub-committee will present the prospective recipients' names and nomination forms to the MSJJAC for a final decision and approval.

## **PRESENTATION:**

The MJJAC Chair will invite the recipient to the MSJJAC Annual Juvenile Justice Conference to receive the award during its Annual Awards Luncheon. Additionally, the recipient's application will be submitted to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice for consideration for the Coalition's National Spirit of Youth Award.

The award recipient will be asked to sign a release form granting the MSJJAC permission to use descriptive materials and photos without compensation for the express purpose of promoting recognition for the recipient, the award, and the organization.

The recipient will be announced to the media and will receive the following from the MSJJAC:

- An honorary plaque;
- An entry on a plaque that lists MSJJAC "Spirit of Youth" award recipients for each year;
- Mileage reimbursement (based on state-approved rates) to attend the MSJJAC Annual Juvenile Justice Conference to receive the award.

**DEADLINE FOR 2018 NOMINATIONS – Friday, July 12, 2019. Questions to Dr. Alfred Martin, Jr. @ [alsyukon2@aol.com](mailto:alsyukon2@aol.com) or (601) 922-1919.**

**MISSISSIPPI JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MJJAC)**  
**2019 SPIRIT OF YOUTH AWARD**  
**NOMINATION BALLOT**

This award celebrates a young adult, who by overcoming personal obstacles and serving his or her community, exemplifies the importance of the rehabilitative focus of the juvenile justice system as well as the power of personal achievement.

**To be eligible the nominee must satisfy each point of the following criteria. The nominee must be:**

- Under the age of 28 years
- Not a member of the MJJAC
- A person who was involved in the court system as a juvenile offender
- Currently involved, directly or indirectly, in bettering the lives of at risk youth

The nominee should be aware that he/she is being nominated for this award. All nomination material must be submitted to the following address by Thursday, June 30, 2016.

Dr. Alfred Martin, Chair  
Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee  
P. O. Box 9361  
Jackson, MS 39286-9361  
Or email to [alsyukon2@aol.com](mailto:alsyukon2@aol.com)

Should you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Alfred Martin at 601.922.1919, fax 601.922.1979 or by email [alsyukon2@aol.com](mailto:alsyukon2@aol.com).

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**Cover Page**

**Individual Making this Nomination:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: Wednesday, July 12, 2019.**

**Please answer the following questions about the nominee in detail.  
(USE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY)**

**1. How has the nominee transformed his or her life in a positive way?**

**2. What were some obstacles this person overcame?**

**3. What contributions has this person made in his or her community?**

**4. Why are you nominating this person for the Spirit of Youth Award?**