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Heartland Alliance's
National Immigrant Justice Center



HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS



ABOUT THE NIJC HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

Since 2000, the National Immigrant Justice Center's Human Rights Awards luncheon has honored human rights champions and celebrated the contributions of business, civic, and philanthropic leaders. The event draws more than 800 attendees and provides critical funding for NIJC to ensure that it can continue to promote human rights and access to justice for immigrants. Visit immigrantjustice.org/HumanRightsAwards.

2017 AWARDEES



Keynote speaker & Jeanne and Joseph Sullivan Award recipient:
Representative Ilhan Omar

Ilhan Omar is the newly elected, Minnesota House Representative for District 60B. She is the first Somali-American, Muslim woman in the nation to hold an office at this level. Ilhan and her family fled the Somali civil war and spent four years in a refugee camp in Kenya before finally arriving in the United States. Ilhan is an organizer committed to advancing unity and justice, helping women entrepreneurs, pursuing criminal justice reform and ensuring clean air and water. Ilhan has received multiple accolades and awards and has been featured in several news publications, including *TIME*, *PEOPLE*, *NPR*, and *Al Jazeera*. Adapted from ilhanomar.com.

Human Rights Practitioner Award:

Reed Smith

Reed Smith has played a tremendous role in advancing human rights for Chicago's most vulnerable and expanding resources for NIJC staff and clients. Reed Smith attorneys partnered with NIJC to successfully challenge delays in reasonable fear determination adjudications for individuals in Department of Homeland Security custody. Additionally, Reed Smith has been a leader in providing protection and representation to Central American refugees fleeing gangs. It has sent teams of *pro bono* attorneys to Greece and other hotspots to provide legal advocacy and training in response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Human Rights Corporate Award:

Aon

As a dedicated *pro bono* partner, the work of Aon attorneys at NIJC's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) clinics has helped hundreds of immigrant youth and their families live safely and pursue greater opportunities in the United States. Additionally, Aon has played an important role in reinvigorating NIJC's Asylum project and provided life-changing representation to nine asylum seekers.

Commitment to Change Award:

Dr. Zaher Sahloul

Dr. Sahloul is a critical care physician from Chicago recently named a "Chicagoan of the Year" by Chicago Magazine. A member of the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation and founder of American Relief Coalition for Syria, he has volunteered throughout Syria and has testified to the United Nations. Dr. Sahloul's commitment to human rights makes health care more accessible and shines light on the global refugee crisis.

THE HISTORY OF THE NIJC HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

- 2016**
Keynote & Awardee: Monica McWilliams, Professor of Women's Studies, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland
Awardees: John "Jay" Reidy, AT&T Inc.; the Loyola University Chicago Student Body; Walgreen Co.
- 2015**
Keynote & Awardee: Ishmael Beah, *New York Times* Bestselling Author and President of the Ishmael Beah Foundation
Awardees: Carol A. Brook, Mark A. Flessner, JPMorgan Chase
- 2014**
Keynote & Awardee: Jose Antonio Vargas, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
Awardees: Linda Coberly, Daniel Olmos, United Airlines, Inc.
- 2013**
Keynote & Awardee: Richard J. Durbin, U.S. Senator (D-IL)
Awardees: AT&T Inc., Immigrant Youth Justice League, Brian Murray
- 2012**
Keynote: Maria Hinojosa, Correspondent for PBS FRONTLINE, host of NPR's Latino USA
Awardees: Caterpillar Inc. Legal Services Division, Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, Lawrence S. Schaner, Jon Stryker
- 2011**
Keynote: Justice Margaret Marshall, Former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
Awardees: Albany Park Theater Project, Terry Yale Feiertag, McDonald's Corporation
- 2010**
Keynote: Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift
Awardees: Duane Sigelko, Sisters of Mercy, Exelon Corporation
- 2009**
Keynote: António Guterres, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Former Prime Minister of Portugal
Awardees: Luol Deng, James Morsch, Winston & Strawn LLP
- 2008**
Keynote: Harold Koh, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights & Labor
Awardees: Melville Washburn, Chicago Community Trust, Chicago Public Radio, Chicago Reporter, WTTW11, Chicago Public Library
- 2007**
Keynote: Joseph Margulies, Assistant Director, MacArthur Justice Center
Awardees: Carlos M. Sada, Tibetan Alliance, Jenner & Block LLP
- 2006**
Keynote: Seymour Hersh, Journalist, *The New Yorker Magazine*
Awardees: Dr. Irene Martinez, Lee Ann Russo, Levi Strauss & Co.
- 2005**
Keynote: Richard J. Goldstone, Former Justice, South African Constitutional Court
Awardees: Joseph Margulies, Natalie Spears
- 2004**
Keynote: Paul Hoffman, Civil & Human Rights Attorney
Awardees: Margaret Blackshere, David Berten, Ariel Investments
- 2003**
Keynote: Mary Robinson, Former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Former President of Ireland
Awardees: Juan Mendez, Bob Graves, Aon Corporation
- 2002**
Keynotes: Judge Abner Mikva, Former U.S. Congressman, Chief Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C.; Peggy Kou, Attorney, U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
Awardees: Jeanne and Joseph Sullivan, Edwin Silverman, Chicago Tribune Editorial Board
- 2001**
Keynote: David S. Weissbrodt, University of Minnesota Law School
Awardees: Jacqueline Bhabha, Baxter International Foundation
- 2000**
Keynote: Juan Garces, Lead Attorney of the Legal Team Prosecuting Chilean Dictator General Augusto Pinochet
Awardees: Robert Kirschner, Jan Schakowsky

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Sponsors are critical to the success of the NIJC Human Rights Awards. We thank you for your generous support and partnership. As a sponsor you will:

- Enable NIJC to continue protecting human rights and access to justice for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.
- Demonstrate your commitment to the work of *pro bono* volunteers within your organization and to the community.
- Help sustain compelling *pro bono* opportunities that offer a wide range of courtroom and transactional experience.
- Obtain visibility for your organization before more than 900 attendees from major law firms, corporations, and civic and community leaders. Sponsors receive recognition on NIJC's website, invitation, pre-event publications, advertisements in local newspapers, and signage and other materials at the event, according to the level of support.

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