

XXVIII “Carlos Carnicer” Human Rights Awards of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers

Terms & Conditions

Article 1

In order to publicly recognise individuals, legal entities, institutions or any other groups of persons whose work or activities have distinguished them and who have made a significant contribution to combating injustice and defending human rights, at its Plenary Session of 26 November 1998, the General Council of Spanish Lawyers established three annual Awards: one recognising individuals, including posthumously; one recognising institutions; and one recognising media professionals, whether print or audiovisual. The Awards shall be granted in accordance with the following rules.

At the Plenary Session of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers held on 14 December 2012, the Special Nacho de la Mata Award was established in memory of the late lawyer and 2008 Human Rights Award recipient. This Award recognises individuals or institutions whose work is dedicated to protecting the rights of the most vulnerable children.

All nominations submitted for this edition in the Individual, Institution and Communication categories must relate to actions, track records or initiatives centred on the defence of equality and non-discrimination as fundamental principles of human rights, in keeping with the theme of this year's Awards: **“NO FIRST-CLASS RIGHTS, NO SECOND-CLASS PEOPLE”**.

This edition is inspired by Articles 1 and 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaim the equality of all people in dignity and rights and prohibit discrimination of any kind on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, birth or other status.

Particularly in the categories recognising individuals and institutions, special consideration will be given to initiatives undertaken by legal professionals, law firms, professional Bar Associations, social organisations, public or private institutions, and national and international bodies that have made a significant contribution to promoting substantive equality, combating discrimination, protecting groups in situations of vulnerability and guaranteeing universal enjoyment of human rights.

Nominations may also be submitted in connection with the defence of the rights of migrants, refugees or stateless persons; gender equality; the protection of diversity; efforts to combat emerging forms of structural or technological discrimination; and the strengthening of national and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

Awards may be granted to both national and international nominees. Exceptionally, where it is considered appropriate to recognise a specific action of particular significance in promoting equality and non-discrimination, a separate category may be established in addition to those listed above.

Accordingly, the Awards shall recognise those who have particularly distinguished themselves in defending equality, human dignity and the effective enjoyment of human rights without discrimination of any kind.

Article 2

Nominations submitted before 16 October 2026 shall be eligible for consideration. The call for nominations shall be published by the General Council of Spanish Lawyers through its Foundation and shall be appropriately publicised and disseminated through the Council's Communications Department and by any other means deemed appropriate.

Article 3

Nominations may be submitted by all Bar Associations, Regional Bar Councils and members of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers. Nominations may also be submitted by any individual or institution associated with the legal profession or the practice of law, as well as by public and private institutions and companies.

The recipient of the Special Nacho de la Mata Award shall be selected by the Jury from a shortlist of three nominees submitted by Fundación Raíces, as custodian of the legacy of lawyer Nacho de la Mata.

Nominations must take the form of a reasoned proposal setting out the grounds for the nomination and must include the nominee's curriculum vitae or, in the case of an organisation or institution, a record of its work and activities. Where appropriate, nominations may also be accompanied by letters or other expressions of support and, more generally, by any documents providing relevant information or supplementary supporting material.

Article 4

Nominations must be submitted using the form provided on the General Council of Spanish Lawyers: <https://www.abogacia.es/repositorio/premiosddhh/>, in accordance with the requirements specified in each section and the instructions provided.

Article 5

Nominations that fail to meet the above requirements shall not be accepted, and any documentation submitted shall not be returned.

Article 6

The Awards shall be decided by a Jury comprising:

- *The President of the General Council of the Judiciary.*
- *The President of the Council of State.*
- *The person serving as Minister of Justice at the time the Awards are granted.*
- *The Ombudsman.*
- *The President of the UIBA.*
- *The President of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers.*
- *The Secretary-General of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers.*
- *Two members of the Foundation of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers.*
- *The President of the Spanish Confederation of Young Lawyers*

Serving in a personal capacity:

- *The President Emerita of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers.*
- *A lawyer who received the Award in the previous edition.*
- *The President of Fundación Raíces.*

- *The Dean Emerita and President of the ICAB Observatory.*

Article 7

The Jury shall be chaired by the President of the General Council of the Spanish Bar. The Secretary-General of the General Council of the Spanish Bar shall act as Secretary to the Jury, with the right to speak and vote.

The Jury shall be validly constituted and may adopt decisions when, following due notice by its President, half of its members plus one are present. The President must, in all cases, be among those present.

The President shall be responsible for convening meetings of the Jury, chairing its deliberations and, where applicable, overseeing any votes held. The Secretary shall be responsible for drawing up the minutes of the meetings.

Members of the Jury may be represented at its meetings by persons belonging to the body, institution or organisation over which they preside or which they lead, with every effort being made to ensure that substitutes are of the highest possible level of representation.

Article 8

Each member of the Jury shall cast their vote during sessions at which the Jury is formally convened. Voting shall, in all cases, be by secret ballot. The Award in each category shall be granted to the nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast by the members of the Jury at the meeting expressly convened for that purpose.

In the event of a tie, the President of the General Council of the Spanish Bar shall have the casting vote.

Each Jury member shall exercise their vote personally. A member may delegate their vote to another member of the Jury, although no member may hold more than one proxy vote.

Article 9

The Award in each category shall be granted to a single individual, institution or group. In the categories recognising individuals or institutions, particular consideration shall be given to the nominees' overall record and/or to a specific action for which they have been nominated.

Exceptionally, an Award may be shared where the merits of the nominated individuals, groups or institutions clearly complement one another.

Article 10

Each Award shall consist of a unique commemorative plaque.

Award recipients shall receive their Award during the Annual Conference of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers, to be held on 10 December. Acceptance of the Award entails an express commitment to attend the Awards Ceremony. If the winning individual or organisation is unable to attend the ceremony, they must provide sufficient advance notice, and the Award shall instead be granted to the nominee who ranked immediately below them in the relevant category during the Jury's voting process.

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