

2012 Golden Door and Amicus Awards Background & Nomination Criteria

The Golden Door Award and Amicus Award will be presented at Northwest Immigrant Rights Project's 28th Anniversary Celebration on **May 4, 2012 in the stunning Sky Church at Experience Music Project**. The purpose of the awards is to raise awareness of immigrant rights issues and to publicly honor those who offer protection and advocacy on behalf of immigrants and refugees. Recipients are the "unsung heroes" of our communities, people whose work makes a real difference in the lives of immigrants and refugees.

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) presents the Golden Door Award to an *individual or organization* in Washington State for their outstanding work in promoting justice and dignity for immigrants and refugees. The Amicus Award is presented to a *law firm* which has shown exceptional participation in legal proceedings that assist and further the rights of immigrants and refugees.

The Golden Door Award

Presented to one *organization or individual* who has furthered the cause of immigrant and refugee rights on a National, State, or Local level. Careful consideration should be given to the following criteria:

- Significant work that is widely recognized
- Number of people impacted by this work
- Opportunity to raise level of awareness of immigrant rights issues
- Publicly honor "unsung heroes" whose work fosters hope for immigrants
- Length of time involved in this work (commitment /dedication /advocacy)
- Cultural diversity, whether financial compensation and/or geographic distribution

**"...I lift my lamp
beside the golden
door..."**
-Emma Lazarus
(Poem inscribed on
the Statue of Liberty)

The Amicus Award

One Amicus Award is presented to a law firm, which has shown exceptional participation in legal proceedings that assist and further the rights of low-income immigrants and refugees.

Making a Nomination

The **deadline for submission is Friday, February 24, 2012**. The awards will be presented at NWIRP's 28th Anniversary Celebration on May 4, 2012. Recipients will be notified in March.

Please include the following within the nomination:

- *Your name and contact information including place of work*
- *The name and contact information for the nominee including their place of work*
- *Description of nominee's work to promote justice for immigrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers in Washington State.*
- *Any other information you would like us to know about the Nominee, including other references, experience, etc.*

Please note that we will not accept nominations which do not include all required information. **Please submit your nomination via e-mail to kori@nwirp.org, no later than February 24, 2012.** If you have any questions or prefer to mail the nomination, please contact Kori Jock, Development Associate via e-mail (above) or via phone at 206-957-8641.

Previous Award Recipients

- 2011 Golden Door: **Michael T. Concannon**
Amicus: **Omar Riojas & DLA Piper**
Amicus: **K&L Gates**
- 2010 Golden Door: **Casa Latina**
Amicus: **Margaret Gaffney**
- 2009 Golden Door: **Radio KSVR 91.7**
Amicus: **Matt Geyman**, Phillips Law Group
- 2008 Golden Door: **Jana Heyd**
Amicus: **Williams Kastner** law firm
Special Recognition: **Michele and Jack Storms**
- 2007 Golden Door: **Colors NW Magazine** and **Victoria Cherniak** and the Newcomers Resource Project of the King County Bar Association
Amicus Award: **Professor Anita Ramasastry** and the Immigrant Families Advocacy Project (IFAP) of the University of Washington School of Law
- 2006 Golden Door: **Anne Benson** and **El Comité Pro Amnistía**
Amicus Award: **Bob Pauw & Bob Gibbs**, Law Offices of Gibbs Houston Pauw
- 2005 Golden Door: **Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney** and **Jill Dutton**
Amicus Award: **Cozen O'Connor**
- 2004 Golden Door: **Legal Foundation of Washington** and **The Sanctuary Movement** and **Dr. Richard Kovar**
Amicus Award: **Perkins Coie**
Founders Award (special award for 20th anniversary): **Joint Legal Task Force**
- 2003 Golden Door: **Atieno Odhiambo** and **David Ayala**
- 2002 Golden Door: **Diane Narasaki**, Executive Director, Asian Counseling and Referral Service and **Nieves Negrete**, Executive Director
Washington Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice
- 2001 Golden Door: **Guadalupe Gamboa**, Director, United Farm Workers - WA State and **Roberta Ray**
- 2000 Golden Door: **KDNA Radio**, Yakima Valley and **Jay Stansell** and **Jennifer Wellman**, Federal Public Defenders, Seattle
- 1999 Golden Door: **Bob & Gracie Ekblad** and **Vince Brown**, **Grace Huang & Rebecca Smith** of Columbia Legal Services - Olympia, WA