

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW OF THE BURTON AWARDS

PURPOSE OF THE BURTON AWARDS

A Well-Established Tradition in Law

In 1999, a unique national awards program was established to perfect legal writing and evolved into also rewarding legal achievements. These achievements range from legal writing to publications to the greatest reforms in law. The principal focus is awarding effective legal writing. The program now honors partners in law firms and law school students who use plain, clear and concise language in their writing, as well as lawyers in the military and the executive branch of government, journalists, and law school professors.



Hailed as the “Preeminent Awards Program” in Law

THE BURTON AWARDS

The Burton Foundation, which funds the program, is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization concentrating on major accomplishments in law. It defrays the costs for the program’s judges, winners, and students who attend the event and are given the awards. With tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) corporation, the program is designed to reward excellence and encourage perfection.

THE HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The honorary and distinguished Board of Directors of the Burton Awards program includes: Chief Judge Richard Posner, 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals (*retired*); U.S. Senator John Cornyn; U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.; U.S. Senator Mike Crapo; U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet; Supreme Court Justice Carol Corrigan of California; Yabo Lin, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP; Jane Sullivan Roberts, Partner, Major, Lindsey & Africa; Lisa Rickard, President, U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform; Elissa Lichtenstein, Director, Public Services Division, American Bar Association; Thomas L. Sager, Partner, Ballard Spahr LLP; Les Parrette, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Compliance Officer, Novelis Inc.; James M. Rishwain, Jr., Chairman of Emeritus, Pillsbury Winthrop LLP; Betty Whelchel, Head of Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs, BNP Paribas SA; Stephen R. Mysliwiec, Partner, DLA Piper LLP (US); Brian Cabrera, Former SVP and General Counsel, NVIDIA Corporation; and Linda Klein, Immediate Past President.

THE FOUNDER

William C. Burton, Esq.: William C. Burton is a partner in Sagat | Burton LLP, New York. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Burton Awards Program. His practice is devoted to lobbying at the federal and state levels of government. He has served as a New York State Assistant Attorney General and an Assistant New York State Special Prosecutor. For fifteen



years, he was the Director of Government Affairs and handled legislative and regulatory matters for Continental Insurance, one of the largest international insurance companies. He is the author of *Burton's Legal Thesaurus*, the first and only reference book ever written for the legal profession. The book is now in its fifth edition. When it was published thirty-eight years ago, Mr. Burton was given a prestigious and prominent award by the Association of American Publishers which declared the book "One of the Most Creative and Innovative Projects of the Year."

In 1999, Mr. Burton created the Burton Foundation and the Burton Awards program to encourage perfection and reward excellence in the legal profession. The non-profit Burton Awards program is run in association with the Library of Congress.



In 2011, Mr. Burton was awarded the highest award by the Legal Writing Institute, the second largest organization of law professors in the United States. The honor and tribute was given for his advocacy and impact on legal writing. Later in 2011, he was presented the "Blackstone Award" by the Friends of the Law Library of Congress for embodying and promoting the best ideals of the venerable institution. The U. S. Chamber of Commerce

Institute for Legal Reform Individual Achievement Award was presented to Mr. Burton for making the U. S. Justice "fairer for all." (2017)