

John Gibson AM award for the

Young Australian Migration Lawyer Of The Year 2025

Nominations are now open for the John Gibson AM Award for the Young Australian Migration Lawyer of the Year for 2025.

John Gibson AM (1950-2012) was one of Australia's most admired advocates, working tirelessly to promote the rights of refugees and asylum seekers for over 25 years. John served as Refugee Council of Australia President between January 2006 and August 2012, was the founding chairperson of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (also known as Foundation House) and served as a part-time Member of the Refugee Review Tribunal for four years. John Gibson was acknowledged for his decades of service to refugees and asylum seekers with a posthumous award in the 2013 Honours List "for significant service to international relations as an advocate for human rights".

Nominations close 5pm on Friday, 31 January 2025 and must be emailed to chelsea.desilva@lawcouncil.au.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be:

- engaged in practice in any Australian jurisdiction (including in private practice, a government law firm, as in-house counsel or for a NGO) or an academic teaching or researching in the field of migration law or related area at an Australian university; and
- have equal to or less than five (5) years post admission experience.

The key criterion for the award is:

- outstanding contribution to the field of migration law in Australia or internationally.

Nominations

The nominee can be either nominated by colleagues or self-nominated. The nominator should confirm that the nominee is aware of the nomination and willing to be nominated.

There is no specific nomination form. Nominations should be accompanied by educational qualifications and material to confirm eligibility, and must address the key criteria.

Information regarding professional contributions should include employment history, publications, conferences attended, presentations and seminars.

The nomination can include up to three references and testimonials. Testimonials could be provided by colleagues, clients or office bearers of NGOs or government departments.

Nomination Process

The Migration Law Committee will review all applications. If the committee cannot agree on a winner the final decision shall be made by the Chair of the committee.

Presentation of Award

The winner of the award will be announced in March 2025. The presentation of the award will be at the 2025 Immigration Law Conference dinner to be held in Canberra on Thursday, 20 March 2025.

The Award

The winner of the Award will receive:

- complimentary membership to the Federal Dispute Resolution Section for one year;
- complimentary registration to the 2025 Immigration Law Conference and dinner;
- flights to Canberra (if required) and accommodation if located outside of ACT for the evening of the Thursday, 20 March 2025.

More information

Chelsea De Silva
Section Administrator
Federal Dispute Resolution Section
chelsea.desilva@lawcouncil.au
02 6246 3722



Federal Dispute
Resolution Section