

## **District of North Dakota Criminal Justice Act Distinguished Panel Attorney Award**

The Distinguished Panel Attorney Award is presented to a District of North Dakota Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel member in recognition of dedication and service to the Panel, indigent defendants, and the District of North Dakota. Central to the award is preservation of the rights of the accused and providing quality representation to indigent defendants.

The CJA Panel Selection Committee shall receive and consider award recommendations from District Judges, Magistrate Judges, the Clerk of Court and court staff, panel attorneys, and from members of the Committee. The Committee shall strive to formally recognize and award one exemplary panel member annually. The Committee shall review nominations for meritorious service to recognize exemplary contributions including:

- Providing outstanding direct representation of individual indigent defendants.
- Unflinching representation while defending unpopular clients or difficult and unpopular causes.
- Mentoring other panel members through sharing experiences, knowledge, skills.
- Donating time and talent to train panel lawyers.
- Exhibiting outstanding courtroom skills and a passion for courtroom practice in representation of appointed clients.
- Exhibiting outstanding advocacy in individual cases and in impacting cases beyond those to which they are appointed.

Above all the award is given by the Committee to honor a member of the CJA Panel who has steadfastly and humbly served on the Panel, zealously represented those to whom they were appointed, and enriched the Panel overall through sharing their knowledge with others.