



Specialty Court Professional of the Year Award

The Arkansas Specialty Court Professional of the Year Award celebrates the passion, commitment, and achievements of individuals working in specialty courts.

The following professional categories will be recognized for awards:

- Specialty Court Judge of the Year
- Specialty Court Program Coordinator of the Year
- Specialty Court Prosecuting Attorney of the Year
- Specialty Court Defense Attorney of the Year
- Specialty Court Treatment Provider of the Year
- Specialty Court Probation Officer of the Year
- Specialty Court Peer Recovery Specialist of the Year

Criteria: Award nominees are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrates a passion for the profession and Specialty Courts;
- Advances the mission of Specialty Courts through collaboration, education, inclusion, and development of peers, team members, and the community; and
- Contributes to the Specialty Court's success through strong use of best-practice standards.

Nominee Review: Nominations are blindly reviewed and ranked against the above criteria. The nominee with the highest score in each category will be selected as the winner.

Finalists Announcements: Three finalists in each category will be announced on April 1, 2025.

Awards: The winner in each category will be recognized at the awards ceremony during the Arkansas Specialty Court Conference.

The deadline for nomination submissions is **March 23, 2025**.

Please email your nomination form to

specialtycourts@arcourts.gov



Specialty Court Professional of the Year Award Nomination

Category:

_____ Judge

_____ Program Coordinator

_____ Prosecuting Attorney

_____ Defense Attorney

_____ Treatment Provider

_____ Probation Officer

_____ Peer Recovery Specialist

Name of Nominee:

Nominee Email:

Nominee Phone Number:

Specialty Court:

(Type – Example: Adult Drug Court)

(County)

Nomination Letter: (500 Word Max)



Parade of Transformation

Achieving sobriety is different for everyone. For some, there are twists and turns; for others, it is a straighter course. Each year, attendees at the Arkansas Specialty Court Conference have the honor to recognize and celebrate participants who have graduated from a Specialty Court and maintained long-term recovery. These inspirational testimonies are a compelling reminder of the impact Specialty Courts have on the lives of participants and their families.

All Specialty Court teams are encouraged to participate. Please share information about the 'Parade of Transformation' with any graduate willing to share his or her recovery story as a result of participating in a Specialty Court. Interested graduates should complete an essay detailing the graduate's life before entering the Specialty Court, hardships experienced while in the Specialty Court, the impact of participating and graduating from the Specialty Court, and the graduate's efforts to remain a leader in the recovery community.

Eligibility Criteria: Graduates

- Must be willing to speak at the Arkansas Specialty Court Conference;
- Must have graduated from the Specialty Court prior to April 2024;
- Must not be on any form of community supervision (probation, parole, SIS, etc.); and
- Must be leading a life of recovery.

Essay Review Criteria: Graduates

- Must express the benefits experienced from participating in and graduating from a Specialty Court; and
- Must demonstrate a commitment to maintaining a life of recovery.

Essay Review and Selection: Essay submissions are blindly reviewed and ranked against the above criteria.

Selected graduates will be invited to attend the Arkansas Specialty Court Conference on April 9-10, 2025 and will be allotted ten minutes to address attendees during the Parade of Transformation session on April 10, 2025. Selected graduates will receive hotel accommodations at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock, along with a \$100 gift card for mileage and meal expenses.

The deadline for nomination submissions is **March 23, 2025**.

Please email your essay to
specialtycourts@arcourts.gov