

“Proposal on Awards for “Prosecutors of the Year”

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In this globalized and modern society, crimes are becoming more complex and diversified. The word “transnational crimes” is now a word of cliché in most of the countries. Thus, prosecutors are fighting against crimes with pride but also with difficulty more than ever.

In this respect, prosecutors deserve to be acclaimed domestically and internationally. However, we do not have many international awards for junior or line prosecutors who are devoting themselves for their duty. In fact, the only awards we have for prosecutors are the awards of the IAP including ‘Special Achievement Award’ and ‘Medal of Honor.’

Thus, it is time to consider whether the IAP should step up to encourage prosecutors worldwide so that they could work with honor. As one and only organization between prosecutors of the world, awards from the IAP would certainly provide sufficient and appropriate honor for the prosecutor himself/herself but also for the prosecution service.

Proposal

We need to create “Prosecutors of the Year” to encourage prosecutors worldwide, so that they could work with pride and honor

- To boost morale of the prosecutors and enforce the standing of prosecutors***
- To establish the status of the IAP as a leading organization between prosecutors***

□. The ‘Awards of the IAP’ as it is today

Awards of the IAP recognize and celebrate the achievements of those of us more dedicated to securing justice. Awards given out currently are the ‘Medal of Honour,’ ‘Special Achievement Award,’ and other Certificates awarded for Performance.

The ‘Medal of Honor’, highest decoration awarded by the IAP aims at the respectable figures for making key attributes of the prosecutor with qualities of integrity, fairness and professional ethics. (IAP Awards Protocol) The awardees include renowned figures such as Justice Louise Arbour, Nelson Mandela and Simon Wiesenthal.

The 'IAP Special Achievement Award' is given to "member or non-member prosecutors who have demonstrated special dedication in pursuit of his/her professional responsibilities in the face of special hardships or adversity or under other circumstances which deserve special recognition." (IAP Award Protocol)

The 'Certificate of Merit' is only given to the organizational or individual members to express gratitude to the pursuit of the Objects of the Association. (IAP Award Protocol)

□. Limits and Problems of Current Award System

However, the Awards above-mentioned awards were mostly given to the prosecutors who have spent many years of their lives and made outstanding achievement. Therefore the scope of commendation that the IAP provides seems somewhat '*limited,*' at least from my near-sighted view and experience. The standard is somewhat very strict and pure qualification requirements are not easy to satisfy. Thus, for someone who is at his/her best effort to fight for justice at this moment is not qualified to such awards.

The number of awardees and the kinds of awards are not also sufficient enough to encourage junior or line prosecutors who are dedicating themselves to fight against ever increasing transnational and organized crimes. There are only few awardees for 'IAP Special Achievement Award' each year and only few altogether for 'Medal of Honor,'

□. Why we need "Prosecutors of the Year"

First of all, through the establishment of the new awards and increase of the awardees, we could encourage prosecutors worldwide to stand on their position proudly and to continue their jobs with self-respect. The situation in each country may differ but in many countries the position of the prosecutors is not stable and prosecutors are not receiving just treatment for their work. But we have seen many prosecutors who stood up against injustice and kept their dignity. If we could internationally acclaim for those efforts and achievements, it would provide necessary support mentally and physically.

We could also make the objectives of the IAP better known as more and more prosecutors would recognize the activities of the IAP. Compared to the increased activities and achievements of the IAP, there are many prosecutors who are not aware of the IAP or who feel they are not part of the IAP. But I believe the awards would help to

bring the IAP yet again to the center of the prosecutors worldwide.

IAP's role and its objective to encourage younger prosecutors, furthermore securing the future of international justice could not be over-emphasized. And taking a closer step toward this role and objective would be recognizing outstanding prosecutors worldwide by the awards we may introduce.

IV. How to set up “Prosecutors of the Year”

Firstly, the award could take the form, for example, of “*Prosecutor of the Year 2010*” and could be systemized as an annual event. We would increase the number of awardees to perhaps not more than twenty. We would set a regional quota according to the number of the organizational members within a region. As the award aims to recognize those who work at a more junior level, the awardees have to be line prosecutors or junior prosecutors.

Secondly, since it aims to encourage working prosecutors worldwide, we should acknowledge more diverse achievements that need recognition and encouragement. It could cover those who demonstrated outstanding performances in fight against corruption, narcotics, organized crime, or cyber crime which we all face in common. It could also expand to prosecutors who adequately kept their roles under political pressure. Successful international cooperation or promotion of human rights, are more examples that could be added to the list.

Thirdly, to decide the awardees, we would take recommendations from the organizational members but also take account recommendations from the individual members for reference. These recommendations would be then handed over to the ExCom, which will make final decisions. Possibly, it would be efficient to make up a small ad hoc committee inside the ExCom to take hold of such task. After the decision, the award will be given at the General Meeting. For the awardees, we could consider offering a Grant Program for participation within allowed budget.

V. Conclusion: Outcome of “Prosecutors of the Year”

The benefits of such an award are perhaps self-evident. As the old English proverb states, “Good words cost nothing, but are worth much”, the awards would give

prosecutors a sense of pride and pleasure of their roles and will serve as a special occasion in presenting them with visions of IAP.

It would have even more special meaning to junior and line prosecutors, as prospective careers blossom before them. The awards would also act as sources of courage and determination to prosecutors for fighting against ever increasing crime; particularly to those fighting for justice in a much less privileged condition. Finally, the awards would aid in letting the world to know more about the IAP, and the role that prosecutors play in securing justice.