

**Montana CASA Awards**  
**APRIL 17, 2012**  
**AWARD CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA**

- **CASA Volunteer of the Year**
  - High level of ethics as a CASA Volunteer
  - Diligence, thoroughness, and persistence
  - Thorough research on assigned cases
  - Making the system responsive to the needs of the child
  - Quality representation of the child's best interests
  - Additional contribution to the local CASA program
  
- **Judge of the Year**
  - High level of professional ethics
  - Significant contribution toward advancing children's issues
  - Leadership and innovation in supporting CASA within the judicial community
  - Leadership and innovation in promoting CASA to the public
  - Leadership in furthering consistent, quality representation of children
  
- **CASA Director of the Year**
  - High level of professional ethics
  - Consistent, effective performance of job responsibilities
  - Teamwork within the agency
  - Effective support of volunteers
  - Innovation in promoting the CASA program
  - Teamwork within state network
  - Years of service
  
- **Child Protection Specialist of the Year**
  - High level of professional ethics
  - Consistence of support for the best interest of the child
  - Outstanding teamwork with the local CASA program and advocate
  - Consistent communication with the CASA advocate

Nominations should include a packet of materials including at least one letter of support from someone other than the nominator – ideally a county attorney, judge, or social work supervisor. Contact Loretta at [loretta@casagal.org](mailto:loretta@casagal.org) or 406-465-1244.

The nominations are scored by an independent selection committee. The winners will be honored the morning of Tuesday, April 17 at the opening of the Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in Helena.

**Expectations of the Selection Committee**

- Members of the selection committee are not affiliated with a CASA agency.
- Selection committee members keep their deliberations confidential.
- Selection committee members score the nominations according to the criteria of the award.

**Timeline for 2011 Nomination Process**

2/09/12	Nomination forms available on website, by e-mail, mail
3/16/12	Deadline for submitting nominations
3/17/12	Nomination materials sent to selection committee
3/25/12	Selection committee completes scoring, winners contacted
4/17/12	Winners announced at CAN conference