

MILLER BECKER AWARD
FOR
EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT PROFESSIONALISM

The Miller Becker Center for Professional Responsibility is a nationally recognized academic center of the University of Akron School of Law. First known as the Joseph G. Miller Institute for Professional Responsibility, the Miller Institute was established in 1993 through the Joseph and Sally Miller Endowed Fund with the goal of enhancing public trust and confidence in the legal profession and the judicial system. Mr. Miller, an Akron philanthropist and lawyer for 44 years, tapped his good friend, Professor and Associate Dean of Akron Law, William C. Becker to serve as the first Director of the Miller Institute. Following Professor Becker's death, Mr. Miller chose to rededicate the Institute as the Joseph G. Miller and William C. Becker Center for Professional Responsibility, in recognition of Professor Becker's 10 years of outstanding leadership. Today, the names Joseph G. Miller and William C. Becker are synonymous with lawyer and judicial ethics and legal professional responsibility.

AWARD CRITERIA

Beginning in 2026, the Miller Becker Award for Exceptional Student Professionalism will honor annually one full-time and one part-time Akron Law student who:

- Embodies some aspect of the character of Mr. Miller and Professor Becker: exceptional professionalism, leadership, service, or friendship;
- Has a reputation within the Akron Law community for being a person of principle, compassion, strength, and courage; and
- Has upheld the Student Oath of Professionalism by honoring the standards of academic honesty, strengthening the law school community, conducting themselves with dignity and civility, and treating students, staff and faculty with kindness and respect.

NOMINATIONS

Beginning in 2026, and each year thereafter, the nomination period will open between February and March. Current students, faculty, and staff may submit nominations. Nominations of students from a wide variety of backgrounds are encouraged. Anonymous and self-nominations will not be considered.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The recipients will be selected by a committee of students, staff and faculty. The selection committee should not have more than 11 members and should include the following:

- The Dean of the School of Law;
- The Dean of Academic Affairs;
- The Dean for Career Services and Strategic Initiatives;
- The Dean of Student Affairs;
- The Dean of Law Library Services;
- The Director of Legal Writing;
- One student representative from each of the 1L, 2L, 3L and part-time cohorts to be appointed by the Student Bar Association; and
- The Director of the Miller Becker Center who shall serve as the Chair.

If any member has a conflict of interest with a nominee, that member shall not serve on the Selection Committee and will not be replaced.

The Selection Committee should seek to identify three full-time students and three part-time students who are worthy of the Award and select one winner from each of those three nominees.

AWARD PRESENTATION

The top three full-time students and the top three part-time students identified as worthy of the Award by the Selection Committee shall be recognized during commencement. The Award winners shall also be named during commencement and presented with a certificate or plaque and a check for \$500. All past winners of the Award shall be listed on the website of the Miller Becker Center.