**MISSOURI JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION**

****

**NOMINATION PACKET**

**2025**

**ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS**

**EXCELLENCE IN JUVENILE JUSTICE**

**AWARD**

***Promoting justice for children, youth and families!***

**The Award**

The Honorable Andrew Jackson Higgins, June 21, 1921 – September 14, 2011, is remembered for being a gracious humanitarian, and for his lifetime commitment to serving the best interests of Missouri’s children.

Andrew Jackson Higgins practiced law in Platte City, Missouri, from 1948-1960. He also served as Prosecuting Attorney of Platte County from 1951-1957 and as Mayor of Platte City from 1958-1960. He was appointed Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit in May 1960 and served until June 1964, when he accepted an appointment as a Commissioner of the Supreme Court, a position he held until July 1979. From 1979-1991, Judge Higgins served as a Missouri Supreme Court Judge and was Chief Justice from 1985-1987.

He was educated in Platte City Public Schools, and he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central College in 1943 and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Washington University in 1948.

Judge Higgins provided support and leadership to Missouri Bar projects that modified Supreme Court Rules on continuing legal education, substance abuse intervention, and child support awards. In October 1990, he received the Bar’s Spurgeon Smithson Award for outstanding service toward the increase and diffusion of justice in our society.

Judge Higgins organized the Missouri Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning for Abused and Neglected Children in 1982 and served as its chairman until his retirement. Under his leadership, Missouri inaugurated an interdisciplinary approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect, which has served as a national model for coordinated efforts in permanency planning.

Working directly with the **Missouri Juvenile Justice Association**, Judge Higgins led the effort to secure adoption of Supreme Court Rule 111.03, which established standards for operating juvenile detention facilities and removing children from adult jails.

Judge Higgins was active in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and frequently lectured on children’s issues. He served on the Advisory Board to the Board of Directors of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association. He served as chair of the Missouri Bar’s Commission on Children and the Law, was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse-Missouri Chapter, and was a consultant on children’s issues to the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He was recognized as the 1987 Missouri Child Care Association Child Advocate of the Year and was the 1990 recipient of the Ann Dandurant Award by the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse-Missouri Chapter. Judge Higgins received the 1998 Gene Schwilck Award for Outstanding Service to Missouri Children and Youth. In 2002, Prevent Child Abuse-Missouri established an Award in his name to recognize his unparalleled work in abuse/neglect prevention.

In May of 1992, the Board of Directors of the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association established the **ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS EXCELLENCE IN JUVENILE JUSTICE AWARD**. The award recognizes an individual who shares Judge Higgins’ commitment and dedication, and who embraces the MJJA’s philosophy.

**Previous recipients of the Award:** Representative Kaye Steinmetz, Randy Thomas, Ken Hensiek, The Honorable Dennis Kehm, The Honorable Ninian Edwards, Robert Perry, Jay Wood, Rebecca Culler, Mark Steward, The Honorable Susan Block, Barbara Smith, Ray Grush, Sue Ashwell, The Honorable Jimmie Edwards, Denny Atherton, Jeani Longstreth, Gary Waint, Alan Gremli, Bev Newman, Cathy Horejes, Tammy Walden, Rick Gaines and The Honorable Patrick Robb.

**Criteria**

The **ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS EXCELLENCE IN JUVENILE JUSTICE AWARD** will be presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to promoting excellence within Missouri’s juvenile justice system. **Criteria for selecting the award recipient are**:

1. The individual contributed a needed service to children served by Missouri’s juvenile justice system.
2. The individual demonstrated active participation and involvement in securing the needed service.
3. The individual initiated activities in new or existing programs to promote or provide *exemplary* services for children.
4. The individual’s achievement was for the general good and benefit of children at **local *and* statewide** levels.

5. The service or activity produced positive changes and the individual’s efforts inspired others.

6. The individual overcame unusual challenges such as the public’s perception of the issue, or limited resources.

**Previous recipients of the MJJA Andrew Jackson Higgins Award may not be nominated.**

**Nominating Procedures**

⯌ For a nomination to be considered, the award application must be complete and legible. **An incomplete or unsigned form disqualifies the nomination**.

⯌ An individual or group may nominate more than one candidate.

⯌ The application must be postmarked, or submitted electronically, **no later than Friday, September 19, 2025 at 5:00 pm.** THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.

⯌ Please provide a brief biographical sketch of the nominee.

⯌ Pertinent supplementary information (no more than five pages) may be submitted with the nomination packet. This information may include letters of endorsement, pamphlets, newspaper articles, or similar items. Information sent separately from the Nomination Packet will not be accepted.

Applications shall be submitted by mail or via email:

**Missouri Juvenile Justice Association**

Andrew Jackson Higgins Excellence in Juvenile Justice Award

P.O. Box 1332

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1332

ATTENTION: Marcia Hazelhorst, Executive Director

EMAIL: [Jeff@MJJA.org](mailto:Jeff@MJJA.org)

**ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS EXCELLENCE IN JUVENILE JUSTICE AWARD**

**APPLICATION**

**Nominee Information:**

Name

Address

(street, route, box number)

(city) (state) (zip)

Agency/Business/Organization

Position/Title Phone

Fax Email

Based on the established criteria for selecting the award recipient, please answer the following questions:

1. What needed service(s) did the nominee contribute to children served by the Missouri’s juvenile justice system?

2. Describe how the nominee demonstrated active participation and involvement in developing and implementing the needed service and/or activity.

3. a. What services or activities did the nominee initiate within new or existing programs?

b. How did these services promote or provide exemplary services for children?

4. a. Describe how the nominee’s achievement was for the general good of children at the local level.

b. Describe how the nominee’s achievement was for the general good of children at the statewide level.

5. a. What positive changes did the service or activity produce?

b. How did the nominee’s efforts inspire others?

6. What challenges did the nominee overcome while developing and implementing the services and activities?

In addition to answering the above questions, please address the following:

Please provide a timeline of the nominee’s service related to their noted accomplishments.

**Nominator Information:**

Name

Address

(street, route, box number)

(city) (state) (zip)

Agency/Business/Organization

Telephone: Cell Office Fax

Email

Relationship to Nominee

I hereby certify that the information I have supplied regarding the nominee is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Signature of Nominator Date Submitted

**The Nominator must gain two additional signatures (below) which attest that they have read this Nomination and concur with its statements.**

1. Title

Signature of Person Concurring

Type or Print Name

2. Title

Signature of Person Concurring

Type or Print Name

**Award Committee**

Entries will be evaluated by the ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS EXCELLENCE IN JUVENILE JUSTICE AWARD COMMITTEE. The Award Committee consists of representatives from each of the following agencies and organizations:

⯌ The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association Board of Directors

⯌ The Missouri Division of Youth Services

⯌ The Missouri Children’s Division

⯌ The Missouri Department of Public Safety

⯌ The Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator

⯌ Missouri’s Juvenile & Family Courts

If a member of the Award Committee is nominated, s/he will resign from the Committee during the evaluation process. The MJJA Award Committee shall review the nominations based on the criteria and will present a candidate to the Board of Directors of the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association for approval. If the candidate is approved by the Board, the Award will be presented at the MJJA Fall 2020 Educational Conference. The decision of the Board is final. The Board reserves the right not to make an award in any given year.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:**

**POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025**

**-OR-**

**SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL NO LATER THAN**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 AT 5:00 PM**