

# Lex Frieden Employment Awards Submission Guidelines

Sponsored by the

**Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities**

## ***Guidelines***

- Awards are presented in honor of efforts that go Above and Beyond the legal requirements of federal, state and local laws relating to disability issues relevant to the nominee's workplace.
- Activities and practices in the current year will be considered in the judging process.
- A business, organization, or individual may be nominated by anyone (see the exceptions below); self-nominations are encouraged.
- There is **no fee** for entries.
- Winners in each category are selected by a team of judges that includes people with disabilities, professionals in the field of disabilities, and professionals familiar with workplace accommodations; final results are based on feedback from the judging panels.
- Materials entered will become the property of the Governor's Committee and will be used only for purposes related to the Governor's Committee. Winning entries may be used by the Governor's Committee for promotion of the competition and its results. No materials will be used by the Committee for commercial purposes.
- You are encouraged to include supplementary materials for your awards entry by email or postal mail. Ex: local media coverage, brochures, photos, letters of recommendation, etc.
- Testimonials from employees or customers with disabilities are encouraged, but please obtain written permission to use information and photos used in the submission; do not disclose confidential information.
- The Committee may elect to give other forms of special recognition or to eliminate from consideration selected categories.
- GCPD members, staff, and their immediate families are not eligible to receive, and may not submit nominations for, competitively-judged GCPD awards during their tenure on the Committee.

## ***Calendar for Awards Process***

August 12.....Postmark deadline for all entries  
September 15                   Completion of the judging process  
October.....Ceremony for award winners; date/location will vary

## ***Award Categories***

**Employer Awards** are given in four categories - Small Employer (25 or fewer employees), Medium Employer (26 to 500 employees), Large Employer (more than 500 employees), and Non-Profit Employer. Each category serves to recognize employers in Texas who have fostered a diverse and accessible workplace and who have developed innovative ways to integrate people with disabilities into the workplace, going beyond the legal requirements.

**Entrepreneurship Award** is given to a living entrepreneur with a disability who has shown extraordinary ingenuity and drive to create and sustain a successful business that has created jobs and/or accessible services.

**Martha Arbuckle Award** recognizes a well-organized and publicized innovative local committee project with a focus on raising awareness of disability issues. This award is presented in memory of Austin's long-time disability advocate Martha Arbuckle.

**The Governor's Trophy** is the Governor's Committee's highest honor and is awarded to a person who has achieved the highest success in enhancing the empowerment and employment of Texans with disabilities. The Governor's Trophy recognizes long-term commitment and outstanding efforts at both the community and state level.

## ***Submissions***

Completed Entry Forms and any additional supporting materials should be sent to the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) by the deadline, either by email or by postal mail:

### **BY EMAIL:**

[GCPD@gov.texas.gov](mailto:GCPD@gov.texas.gov)

[http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities/awards/employment\\_awards/](http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities/awards/employment_awards/)

### **BY POSTAL MAIL:**

Lex Frieden Employment Awards

Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

PO Box 12428

Austin, Texas 78711

**For questions, contact the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities at the email address above or call GCPD at 512-463-5739**