



Dallas Bar Association's
2026 Stephen Philbin Award Entry Form
For Excellence in Legal Reporting



OPEN TO ALL MAJOR MEDIA OUTLETS IN TEXAS

The Philbin Award is open to all major outlets in Texas!
First and Second Place Awards will be presented.

COVERAGE PERIOD: June 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (*Legible writing required.*)

All Entries MUST include a short summary of the article.

Title of Entry _____

Date Entry Was Aired/Published _____

Media Organization _____

Name(s) of Reporters, Producers, Videographers, Editors to whom award should be presented, and their roles* (**cannot exceed 6 names**) _____

Name & Title of Person Submitting Entry _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime Phone No. of Person Submitting Entry _____

E-Mail Address _____

Signature of Person Submitting Entry** _____

***I certify the information provided on this Entry Form is accurate and true.*

- **ONE FIRST PLACE WINNER**
\$12,000 CASH AWARD.
- **ONE SECOND PLACE WINNER**
\$5,000 CASH AWARD.

**Cash award to be evenly
divided by those listed above.*

**All entries must be emailed, postmarked, or
hand-delivered to DBA by:
Friday, July 31, 2026**

**Preferred method: Email your submission, summary, &
entry form to jsmith@dallasbar.org
or Mail **1 copy of each (see guidelines)** to
Dallas Bar Association, RE: Philbin Awards,
2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201**



43RD ANNUAL STEPHEN PHILBIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL REPORTING

Hosted by THE DALLAS BAR FOUNDATION AND THE DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION

A **\$12,000 cash prize** will be awarded to one first-place winner and **\$5,000 cash prize** awarded to one second-place winner. Winners will also receive an award recognizing their accomplishments.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries for the Philbin Award must cover some aspect of the legal system or its participants and should contribute to the public's understanding of the legal system. A panel of judges evaluates submissions for informational and educational value, creativity, thoroughness, accuracy, clarity, interest, contribution to public debate, and the journalist's resourcefulness, courage, and initiative in pursuing the story.

Entries must be emailed, postmarked, or hand-delivered no later than Friday, July 31, 2026. Entries can be emailed to jsmith@dallasbar.org (preferred method). Otherwise, mail or hand-deliver, (1 copy) to Dallas Bar Association, RE: Philbin Awards, 2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201. Each entry must be accompanied by the Philbin Awards Entry Form, which must be filled out completely and accurately, as well as a summary. We welcome the submission of entries by non-English language media; to facilitate judging, such entries must be translated into English. No entries will be returned to entrants.

Entries must have been published or aired between June 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. A series with installments before June 1, 2025 or after June 30, 2026, may be entered in its entirety if at least half of the series appeared within the competition period and no part of the series was entered in the 2025 Philbin Awards competition.

No single reporter may submit more than two entries. All inquiries regarding the Philbin Awards competition should be directed to the Communications Department of the Dallas Bar Association at jsmith@dallasbar.org.

Entry Requirements

ALL Entries MUST include a short summary of the piece (100 words or less).

All entries (whether emailed, mailed, or hand-delivered), must include a PDF of tearsheet/printed article/or link to video/podcast to show publication date, as well as a Word document or PDF of the text (font must be large enough to be easily read on 8 ½ x 11 paper), summary, and entry form. Email to jsmith@dallasbar.org. Include "Philbin Entry" in email subject line.

For Broadcast Entries: Entrants can email a link via Dropbox, etc. and include their entry form and summary electronically. If submitting via USPS or hand-delivery, entries must include a flash drive containing the entry, which must be accompanied by the same criteria as above. **Try to keep entries** (series of reports or single topic) **no longer than 20 minutes in length.**

The publication date of the entry must be apparent on the entry itself, in addition to being listed on the entry form. All entries must have actually been published/aired during the eligible time period, and bear the publication's name or website's URL. All entries must be clearly labeled. Entry forms must be attached to the entry in some fashion. No entries will be returned to entrants.

All online content must be clearly indicated and remain publicly available via a URL accessible during the judging period. Online entries must also be submitted in hard copy (i.e. summary/pages in PDF format).

History of the Stephen Philbin Awards

The Stephen Philbin Awards were created in 1983 to honor the memory of Stephen H. Philbin, a long-time member of the Dallas Bar Association and a partner with the firm of Locke, Purnell, Boren, Laney & Neely. Stephen Philbin died in 1982 from leukemia. At the time of his death, Mr. Philbin was a leading authority on media law in Texas. He advised major publications and broadcast companies on libel law, regulations and licensing of broadcast properties, and fair comment rulings. He was a graduate of Harvard Law School, and received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Yale University.

In honor of Mr. Philbin's contributions to media law in Dallas, the Philbin and Brock Families have funded the Philbin Awards, and the Dallas Bar Association and Dallas Bar Foundation have presented the awards annually since 1983.