

History of the Tony Winsor Award

Attorney Tony Winsor worked for Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and dedicated his 39 years of practice to advocating for the disadvantaged. Attorney Winsor worked endlessly on many cases and battles, but the battle most near and dear to medical interpreters was leading the task of passing the Massachusetts Emergency Room Bill signed into law as Chapter 66 of the Acts of 2000. The law states that all hospitals which provide acute care in emergency rooms or in acute psychiatric services must use competent interpreter services when treating non-English speaking patients. The passing of Chapter 66 of the Acts of 2000 was the forward thrust to professionalize medical interpreters and ultimately allowing disadvantaged patients to have a voice and seek quality care.

MassAHEC Network established the award for medical interpreters in Tony Winsor's name in 2015. The purpose of this award is to honor a person who, like Tony Winsor, has advocated for professionalizing the work of a medical interpreter to improve language access for all persons. The contributions to the field of medical interpreting may include advocating for the utilization of medical interpreters, providing education for medical interpreters, or promoting the work of medical interpreters.

Past Awardees

2016 – Jane Kontrimas
Beth Israel Hospital
2015 – Carla Fogaren,
Steward Health Care

Paving the Way to Health Care Access: A Day of Learning for Interpreters

Tony Winsor Award Recipient for 2017: Estela McDonough



Words from Nomination Committee:

While we were impressed with the nominations as a whole, Estela's nomination particularly stood out for us. Estela's profound love and passion for medical interpreter education – and for training clinicians and support staff to partner with interpreters in patient care - have made her an inspiration to those who have had the honor to learn from her and to work by her side. Estela McDonough, a pioneer in the medical interpreter field, exemplifies the very best a medical interpreter can be. Her 25 years of service as an interpreter are a testament to her dedication. We are delighted that she will be honored.

Nominees for 2017

- **Alexandra Avedisian**, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
- **Connie Camelo**, UMass Memorial Health Care
- **Nancy Esparza**, Center for Health Impact (formerly Central MA AHEC)

With thanks to the Nomination Committee members:

Francesco Pagano, President, Interpreters and Translators, Inc.
Shari Gold-Gomez, Director Interpreter Services, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Natalya Mytareva, Executive Director, Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI)