

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

Past Awardees

2017 – Estela McDonough, UMass Memorial
2016 – Jane Kontrimas, Beth Israel Hospital
2015 – Carla Fogaren, Steward Health Care

Paving the Way to Health Care Access: Two Days of Learning for Interpreters

Tony Winsor Award Recipient for 2018: Joy Connell



Words from Nomination Committee:

This year, once again, the selection committee received nominations that were truly compelling. The selection of Joy Connell was based on her 30 years of service with community-based organizations, with a focus on refugees and immigrants, and a passion for linguistic access for Limited English proficient groups seeking health care. This passion cemented her involved in the Medical Interpreter world for the past 3 decades.

Ms. Connell has been involved with the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Interpreter Services program since its inception in 1988. The DMH Interpreter Services program is the longest-running and most active program among all state agencies in the Commonwealth. In addition to program coordination, she developed and presented numerous trainings to both interpreters and providers working with interpreters.

Her nomination reminded the committee of Joy's time as the thoughtful and unpretentious President of the MMIA, pitching in before one of the early conferences making hors d'oeuvres for a first ever reception for attendees to keep costs low for the participants. Joy was also involved in helping Tony Winsor himself, for whom the award is named, in the passage of the Emergency Room Interpreter Law.

In addition to her accomplishments and contributions in Massachusetts to the Medical Interpreter field – Joy took her support and passion to the National stage, where her leadership in, and contribution to the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care has contributed to many successful outcomes, including the National Standards of Practice, and an annual National Council Membership meeting. Joy is not only one of our Massachusetts treasures, but a champion on the national and international stage for medical interpreters.

Nominees for 2018

- **Found in Translation** (organization)
- **Avlot Quessa**, Director, Multicultural Affairs & Patient Services, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge MA
- **Solanda Owen**, Medical Interpreter, Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic, Nashua, NH

With thanks to the Nomination Committee members:

Carla Fogaren, System Director of Diversity Initiatives and Interpreter Services,
Steward Health Care

Shari Gold-Gomez, Director Interpreter Services, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical
Center

Jane Kontrimas, CoreCHI™, Russian Interpreter, Training Coordinator, Beth
Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Elena Langdon, Interpreter Trainer, UMass Medical School