

## **AWARD CATEGORIES**

### **■ Chuck Schoville Lifetime Achievement Award**

Recognizes a career-long commitment to combating gang violence.

This award is for a seasoned professional (prosecutor, detective, community leader, educator, etc.) who over many years has demonstrated outstanding leadership, mentorship, and sustained contributions to gang investigation, prevention, policy, training, or prosecution. The recipient should be someone whose legacy and influence will continue to inspire future generations.

### **■ Law Enforcement Award for Courage**

Honors extraordinary personal bravery during gang-related operations.

Awarded to a law enforcement officer or investigator who, during the past year, placed themselves in significant risk beyond regular duty in a gang investigation or confrontation—e.g. rescuing hostages, confronting armed suspects, or intervening in critical moments—and whose bravery materially advanced public safety or the case.

### **■ Civilian Award for Courage**

Honors victims, witnesses, or community members who bravely support justice in gang cases.

Recognizes those who, despite personal danger or hardship, cooperated fully with law enforcement and prosecution during investigations or trials. Their courage can help secure accountability, support deterrence, and reinforce public trust.

### **■ Gang Prosecutor of the Year**

Acknowledges outstanding prosecution of gang cases.

Given to a city, county, state, or federal prosecutor who has demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork, tenacity, creativity, and results in prosecuting gang-related cases. Criteria could include successful convictions, coordination with law enforcement, victim advocacy, case complexity, and community impact. If case specific, the case must be fully adjudicated for consideration.

### **■ Investigator of the Year**

Acknowledges outstanding investigation and enforcement of gang-related cases.

Given to a city, county, state, or federal law enforcement officer, detective, or investigator who has demonstrated exceptional dedication, skill, teamwork, and leadership in combating gang activity. Nominees should exhibit excellence in investigation, intelligence gathering, and coordination with prosecutors and partner agencies. Criteria may include successful case outcomes, innovative investigative techniques, victim and witness protection efforts, case complexity, and positive impact on public safety and the community. If case-specific, the case must be fully adjudicated for consideration.

### **■ Investigative Unit of the Year**

Acknowledges outstanding investigation and enforcement of gang-related cases.

This award is presented to a city, county, state, or federal investigative unit, gang unit or task force that has demonstrated exceptional dedication, skill, teamwork, and leadership in combating gang activity. Nominees should exhibit excellence in coordinated investigations, intelligence gathering, and collaboration with prosecutors and partner agencies. Criteria may include successful case outcomes, innovative investigative strategies, victim and witness protection efforts, the complexity and scope of cases handled, and a measurable positive impact on public safety and the community. If case-specific, the nominated case(s) must be fully adjudicated for consideration.

### **■ Community Impact Award**

Highlights impactful partnerships between law enforcement and the community.

Awards initiatives where law enforcement/prosecution and community stakeholders (schools, nonprofits, neighborhood groups, faith organizations) have worked together to reduce gang recruitment, violence, or reoffending. The partnership should show measurable results or promise for sustainability.

### **■ Award for Excellence**

Awarded to any law enforcement officer, civilian law enforcement personnel, media personnel, educator or neighborhood activist who have gone above and beyond in their work to reduce gang related crime in their community. This can be awarded to anyone that the committee determines meets the general criteria for the award.