

Migration Manager John Gibson AM award for the

Young Australian Migration Lawyer Of The Year 2026

Nominations are open for the Migration Manager John Gibson AM Award for the Young Australian Migration Lawyer of the Year for 2026.

John Gibson AM (1950-2012) was one of Australia's most admired advocates, working tirelessly to promote the rights of refugees and asylum seekers for over 25 years. John served as Refugee Council of Australia President between January 2006 and August 2012, was the founding chairperson of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (also known as Foundation House) and served as a part-time Member of the Refugee Review Tribunal for four years. John Gibson was acknowledged for his decades of service to refugees and asylum seekers with a posthumous award in the 2013 Honours List "for significant service to international relations as an advocate for human rights".

Nominations close 5:00 pm on Sunday, 15 February 2026 and must be emailed to chelsea.desilva@lawcouncil.au

Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be:

- engaged in practice in any Australian jurisdiction (including in private practice, a government law firm, as in-house counsel or for a NGO) or an academic teaching or researching in the field of migration law or related area at an Australian university; and
- have equal to or less than five (5) years post admission experience.

The key criterion for the award is:

- outstanding contribution to the field of migration law in Australia or internationally.

Nominations

The nominee can be either nominated by colleagues or self-nominated. The nominator should confirm that the nominee is aware of the nomination and willing to be nominated.

There is no specific nomination form. Nominations should be accompanied by educational qualifications and material to confirm eligibility, and must address the key criteria.

Information regarding professional contributions should include employment history, publications, conferences attended, presentations and seminars.

The nomination can include up to three references and testimonials. Testimonials could be provided by colleagues, clients or office bearers of NGOs or government departments.

Nomination process

The Migration Law Committee will review all applications. If the committee cannot agree on a winner the final decision shall be made by the Chair of the Migration Law Committee.



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Federal Dispute
Resolution Section

Presentation of award

The winner of the award will be announced in March 2026. The presentation of the award will be at the 2026 Immigration Law Conference dinner to be held in Brisbane on Thursday, 19 March 2026.

The award

The winner of the Award will receive:

- complimentary membership to the Federal Dispute Resolution Section for one year;
- complimentary registration to the 2026 Immigration Law Conference and dinner; and
- flights to Brisbane (if required) and accommodation if located outside of QLD for the evening of Thursday, 19 March 2026.

More information

Chelsea De Silva
Executive Officer
Federal Dispute Resolution Section
E. chelsea.desilva@lawcouncil.au
T. 02 6246 3722



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Federal Dispute
Resolution Section