

About the Bill Burns Award

Created in 2016

USLAW NETWORK, Inc. (USLAW) has created the Bill Burns Award to annually recognize a client who has shown outstanding service and dedication to USLAW. The Award is named after Bill Burns, the recently retired vice president of liability claims for Landstar System, Inc., a Jacksonville, Florida-based transportation company. Burns also has been named the first recipient of the Award and received it during the recent Spring 2016 USLAW NETWORK Client Conference.

What USLAW looked like in 2001

When USLAW was founded in 2001 there were just a handful of firms and their clients, including Burns, and they wonderfully supported the concept of USLAW, which included the creation of a network of smaller, regionally based, independent firms with the capability to respond quickly, efficiently and economically to client needs. Today USLAW includes approximately 100 independent, full-service firms with roots in civil litigation, including more than 6,000 attorneys covering the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Bill Burns Award Recipients

- 2016 - Bill Burns, Landstar System, Inc.
- 2017 - Stephen E. Winborn, National Interstate Insurance Company
- 2018 - Thomas D. DeMatteo, ABC Bus Companies, Inc
- 2019 – Keith Dunlap, *previously* Gallagher Bassett
- 2021 – Charles Norton, The Coca-Cola Bottler's Association and Linda Thoede, *previously* iHeartMedia

2016 - What Tom Oliver said about the award and Bill Burns

“When USLAW was founded in 2001, Bill was one of the first clients – and an industry leader - who really supported USLAW and what we were creating,” said Thomas L. Oliver, II, Chair of USLAW, and a founding shareholder in USLAW member firm, Carr Allison in Birmingham, Alabama. “He was with us in the very beginning and has been a tremendous supporter of USLAW throughout our first 15 years. We wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for clients like Bill who have stood by us, given us advice, been dedicated to the network and reached out to our lawyers and used them on cases. From this point forward we will present a client award – the Bill Burns Award - for that client who has shown outstanding service and dedication to USLAW and on behalf of the entire USLAW membership I am very pleased to present the first Award to Bill (Burns).”

2016 - Charles F. Carr on Bill Burns

When USLAW was forming, we consulted with Bill about the idea. He liked the idea. He was one of the first to stand behind us. This Award isn’t only about Bill Burns – it’s also about people like Bill Burns who were there with us at the start. Keith Dunlap, Bob Lund and others – who were there with us when we started. Bill is absolutely the perfect model for what we need in risk management today. Bill taught me through the process of 27 cases that I worked on with him – that he sent me to defend -24 of them were resolved without one deposition being taken. The savings he created for Landstar, the empathetic approach he took, his honesty, his overwhelming loyalty. I will never forget. He’s awesome.

2016 - Barry Clifford Snyder on Bill Burns

Bill truly understands that this organization is built on relationships. I knew Bill 10 years before we

started USLAW. For years and years, he and I knew each other as friends, and eventually the business relationship developed. For the transportation group, Bill was always giving us that sage advice that we needed from a leader in the industry.

2017 - What Lew said about Steve Winborn and the award

"We are pleased to present Steve (Winborn) with the 2017 USLAW NETWORK Bill Burns Award for his unwavering commitment to USLAW and our members, and for the industry knowledge that he has generously and consistently shared with the NETWORK through the years," said Lew R.C. Bricker, chair of USLAW and a partner of USLAW NETWORK member firm SmithAmundsen in Illinois. "Steve is great friend of the NETWORK and a transportation and insurance industry leader. He shares the great values Bill Burns has and the passion Bill demonstrated throughout his career.

"Over the years I have known and worked with Steve, he has always strived to ensure that his company's customers receive the best service, protection and industry education that can be offered; and he has proactively engaged USLAW member attorneys to help ensure that occurs. I am proud to call Steve Winborn a business partner and more proud to call him a friend. On behalf of USLAW, we are pleased to recognize him with this award."

2018 - What John Cromie said about Tom DeMatteo and the award

"We are thrilled to honor Tom and recognize him with the Bill Burns Award," said John D. Cromie, chair of USLAW and a partner in USLAW member firm Connell Foley LLP in New Jersey. "Tom has been a tireless supporter of USLAW and an advocate of our strategic expansion to support the needs of our clients. He has served as chair of our Client Leadership Council (CLC) and is a current member of the CLC and Practice Group Client Advisors. Relationships and connections matter and we thank Tom immensely for his trust and friendship throughout the years."

2018 - Mark A. Solheim on Tom DeMatteo

"Tom and I have known each other since our law school days and I am so pleased to join USLAW in honoring Tom with the 2018 Bill Burns Award," said Solheim. "Tom is a hardworking, thoughtful client leader who has been a strong proponent of USLAW's expansion and drive to broaden the services we can provide to our clients, making the NETWORK even stronger. Congratulations, Tom, on this well-deserved recognition."

2018 - Tom DeMatteo on the award

"This is quite the honor," said DeMatteo after receiving the award. "I use the NETWORK as my legal team and my mantra has always been '*relationships, but with results,*' and that is what you get here at USLAW. Thank you so very much for this honor."

2019 – Kevin Fritz on Keith Dunlap

"We are so pleased to recognize Keith with the Bill Burns Award," said Kevin L. Fritz, Chair of USLAW from Lashly & Baer, P.C. in St. Louis, Missouri. "Keith is strong friend of the NETWORK and his character is even stronger. Keith was one of the early industry members supporting USLAW and our member firms and nearly two decades later he continues to do so."

2019 – Keith Dunlap on the award

"I am humbled to be recognized with USLAW's Bill Burns Awards," said Dunlap. "Bill is a giant of the transportation industry and was an exceptional mentor to me over the years, so to be recognized with an award in his name is a true honor. I'd also like to thank the founders and leaders of USLAW who saw the vision of creating a network that can help service the needs of their clients. USLAW has grown

exponentially over the last two decades and I truly appreciate the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the incredible client service and legal network USLAW delivers."

2021 – Dan Longo on Charles Norton and Linda Thoede

"Charles (Norton) and Linda (Thoede) provide significant expertise, insight and advice to USLAW leadership, ensuring USLAW and our member law firms meet the expectations of the client community," said Dan L. Longo, immediate past chair of USLAW and managing partner at Murchison & Cumming LLP in Los Angeles. "In addition to their professional insight, they are longtime friends of the NETWORK, and we are truly pleased to present them with the Bill Burns Award."