



Philip J. Rutledge Social Equity Leadership Award 22nd Annual Social Equity Leadership Conference June 20 - 22, 2024

The NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance focuses on issues of fairness, justice, and equity in a variety of public contexts, including, but not limited to: education, policing, welfare, housing, and transportation. In 2021, the NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance established the **Philip J. Rutledge Social Equity Leadership Award** in recognition of the contributions of the late Fellow Philip J. Rutledge.

With this leadership award, the Panel recognizes and honors the contributions of Philip J. Rutledge to NAPA and the entire social justice community. Phil's work with NASPAA was also instrumental in helping to infuse social equity into the curriculum of NASPAA-accredited programs, and his visionary leadership and unceasing efforts were a catalyst for making social equity one of the pillars of Public Administration.

Academy Fellow **Philip J. Rutledge (1925-2007)** was a Professor at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and at Howard University. Among his many professional accomplishments, he was President of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) as well as a senior official in the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National League of Cities, and U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The Rutledge Social Equity Leadership Award winner will be selected based on his/her/their exceptional contribution to the NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance and advancing social equity in public administration. An award nominee must be an elected NAPA Fellow *in good standing* and must have served on the NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance for *at least five years*. Nominees must also have a demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and as well as demonstrated evidence of achieving social change with an emphasis on developing and promoting concrete actions with lasting impact.

To date, we have selected three Rutledge Leadership Award winners:

- In 2021, our inaugural award winner was [Dr. Blue Wooldridge](#), Professor Emeritus at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University, and past-Chair of the NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity and Governance.
- In 2022, the second winner was [Dr. Gail Christopher](#), Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity and Academy Fellow.
- In 2023, our third winner was [Dr. Susan T. Gooden](#), Dean of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, past-president of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) and past-president of NASPAA.

The announcement of the **Philip J. Rutledge Social Equity Leadership Award** winner will be made at the 2024 Social Equity Leadership Conference, in partnership with The University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Public Policy, UCONN Stamford, and the NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance. The winner's biography and photograph will be published on the NAPA website. Nominations for the Philip J. Rutledge Social Equity Leadership Award will be accepted until May 15, 2024.

To submit a nomination for 2024 the Philip J. Rutledge Social Equity Leadership Award, please complete the nomination form below which describes your nominee’s commitment to fostering social equity and their level of engagement in the NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance as well as describes their impact on advancing social equity in public service.

Your Name	
Your Professional Title	
Nominee’s Name	
Professional Title	
Institution/Organization	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

In 500 words or less, describe your nominee’s commitment to fostering social equity and describe your candidate’s level of engagement in the NAPA Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance.

In 250 words or less, describe the impact that your nominee has had on advancing social equity in public service.

Please send your completed nomination form to the 2024 Rutledge Social Equity Leadership Award and NAPA of the [Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance](#), Dr. RaJade M. Berry-James via email at berryjamesr@vcu.edu. For more information about the 23rd Annual Social Equity in Leadership Conference held at the University of Connecticut Stamford campus, please visit the NAPA website at <https://napawash.org/events/save-the-date-social-equity-leadership-conference-selc-2024>.

Thank you very much for helping us identify the **2024 Philip J. Rutledge Social Equity Leadership Award** winner!