

HODGSON RUSS PARTNER HUGH M. RUSS, III HONORED WITH BAR ASSOCIATION OF ERIE COUNTY'S AWARD OF MERIT

Hodgson Russ Press Release
September 26, 2022

Hodgson Russ Partner [Hugh M. Russ, III](#) will receive the Bar Association of Erie County's (BAEC) prestigious Award of Merit during its 135th Annual Awards Celebration on October 12, 2022. The Award of Merit is only presented in circumstances that warrant special recognition.

The BAEC is honoring Hugh based on his commitment to the betterment of the profession and his commendable service over the past year as President of the BAEC (June 2021 – May 2022). In announcing the award, the BAEC said Hugh has “brought great honor and respect not only to our legal community, but to the legal profession as well.”

During his time as BAEC President, Hugh worked to help the local legal community following the May 14, 2022 mass shooting at Tops Markets on Jefferson Avenue. In a time when grief, confusion, and often anger encompassed the Western New York community, Hugh portrayed strength and stability for not only attorneys in Western New York, but also across the country. In the days immediately following the tragedy, he penned an [open letter](#) to members of the BAEC about the shooting, stressing an urgent need for unity, dedication, love and action. That letter received national attention and recognition.

In addition, Hugh has also worked to raise awareness of the WNY legal community's need to address mental health. He was instrumental in launching the BAEC's Member Assistance Program ([MAP](#)), a tool that provides free and confidential mental health services to members and their families.

“We need to help those who are suffering. Quiet, little, daily acts of kindness are needed now, more than ever,” said Hugh M. Russ, III. “Many members of the BAEC have worked more diligently than I to advance the issues of mental health and wellness, racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion – they are just not as loud as I am – and I accept this award on their behalf.”

Hodgson Russ attorneys facilitate business transactions around the world. As a full service law firm, Hodgson Russ utilizes multidisciplinary work teams to meet clients' specific, often complex needs. Clients include public and privately held businesses,

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