

SFNet Hall of Fame 2026 – Lifetime Achievement Awards

Purpose

To annually recognize individuals who have made unique, significant, or lasting contributions to the secured finance industry throughout their careers. The program will recognize accomplishments over an extended time frame, generally an entire career. All Lifetime Achievement Award winners shall make up the SFNet Hall of Fame.

Eligibility

To be considered for a Lifetime Achievement Award and thereby induction into the Hall of Fame, a candidate must meet one or more of the following eligibility criteria. The candidate's contributions must demonstrate:

- A minimum of 25 years continuous full-time involvement in the industry. If nominee is a lender, they must have at least 15 years as a member of SFNet. If nominee is a service provider, they must have at least five years as a member of SFNet.
- A significant impact on the industry through personal acts
- The manifestation of an entrepreneurial spirit
- Support of the Secured Finance Network (SFNet) and/or Secured Finance Foundation (SFFound)
- A substantial total body of work
- Positive contributions in industry advocacy, innovation, and a significant impact on the development of other industry participants

Candidates will be evaluated on their cumulative impact on the secured finance industry and/or SFNet. They may be living or deceased, retired or active.

Selection Committee members are not eligible for this distinction.

Nomination Process

- Nominators must be members in good standing at the National or Chapter level
- Complete the [Nomination Form](#)
- Provide the nominee's contact information (if posthumous, family information if available)
- Include name, company, title, address, phone number, email address
- Provide nominator contact information should the SFNet staff need additional information
- Provide as much information as possible to help Selection Committee members to evaluate the nominee's contribution to the secured finance industry
- Provide a brief narrative (250-word minimum) explaining why the nominee should be considered for the Hall of Fame based on one or more of the eligibility criteria above.
- A nominator may submit any number of nominations

Timeline

- Online nomination form must be submitted by **July 7th**.

- Award recipients will be identified and contacted by **mid-August**.

Selection Committee

Last 3 years Past Presidents (Rob Meyers, Jenn Palmer, Barry Bobrow), SFNet current President Betty Hernandez, and CEO Rich Gumbrecht. Committee members are not eligible to win in the year that they serve.

Selection Process

- SFNet staff will initially review all submissions to determine eligibility and to ensure that the nomination forms are complete.
- Selection committee will convene to review the nominations and present the list of qualified nominees to be voted upon. Submissions will be emailed to the committee for their review.
- Members of the Past President's Council and SFNet Executive Committee Board of Directors will cast votes. Current Hall of Fame members will also vote. Submissions will be emailed to the voters for their review.
- Each voting party may select up to 25% of the nominees (cannot vote for oneself). Any nominee who has been selected by 75% of the voting parties shall receive a Lifetime Achievement Award and thereby be admitted to the Hall of Fame.

Recognition

The recipients will be:

- Honored and recognized at SFNet's 82nd Annual Convention
- Promoted on the SFNet website
- Profiled in *The Secured Lender* magazine and in *TSL Express*