


From: Brennan Jones bjones@titanceo.com 
Subject: Titan 100 Judging Detailed Instructions
Date: September 10, 2025 at 3:30 PM
To:
Cc: Karla Gamier Karlag@titanceo.com



Hi Chicago Titan 100 Judging Team,

Thank you so much for being a part of the 2026 Chicago Titan 100 judging process. The following are instructions, and [@Karla Gamier](#) will be reaching out once your entries are ready to be scored. **If you have an Awards Force account already, you will use the same password for scoring. For those without an account, Karla will send your details once you have been assigned.**

Couple updates from our call:

1. All of our judging committee members receive a complimentary non-transferable ticket to the 2026 Chicago Titan 100 Awards on Feb. 19 at the Geraghty.
2. We recognize all of our judges during our awards ceremony and you receive a ribbon designation with your name badge.
3. Karla will be reaching out to you for a professional headshot (unless we already have one).

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

We're excited to get a head start on judging! Below are written directions. A rubric to assist with first-year applications is attached. Please note that **this document is confidential** and not to be shared with any potential applicants as to not give an advantage to any one individual.

TITAN (definition)

A titan is a person of exceptional importance and reputation. Albert Einstein was a titan in the world of science. Shakespeare was a titan of literature and Wayne Gretzky was a titan of hockey. The noun titan comes from Greek mythology, in which the Titans were a race of gods. Today, a titan is someone who is reputable, distinguished and preeminent in a certain field.

The Titan100 is a program to recognize a premier group of 100 CEO's and C-level executives in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Representing both the private and public sector, these leaders are Titans of industry who demonstrate exceptional leadership, vision, passion, and influence in their field. We are seeking visionaries. Individuals who do what they do better than anyone else.

We will be reviewing applications through our submission portal, Award Force (<https://titan100.awardsplatform.com/>).

Once logged in, you are directed to your Judge dashboard, where all the assigned applications for you to review will be available.



Your first time log in will require you to accept the Confidentiality agreement. Please do so by putting your full name in the provided field and clicking into “I accept the terms of this agreement” after.

Confidentiality Agreement

Judging (copied from TEST)

As a judge of the award program, I hereby pledge that in accepting this role:

1. I will not divulge or utilize confidential information gained from judging submissions, or discuss with any other party, any details of any application that I am required to judge;
2. I will perform the task required of me to the best of my ability in accordance with the procedures set down and in the spirit of the program, without bias or prejudice to any applicant or application;
3. I will declare to the award organizer any involvement that I have had in any application listed for me to judge;
4. I will not copy or retain any entry material during the online or live judging process, nor remove any written notice, material, score sheet, document or part of any application.

Print your full name

I accept the terms of this agreement

You should have all received an email to setup your password with the subject “External Reviewer Account Created”. Once you setup your password, you can login to the site here: <https://titan100.awardsplatform.com/> I've sorted the applications that you will be reviewing into your respective folders.

My judging assignments

Judging (copied from TEST)

Start Judging open period

10








Entries assigned

My judging assignments → Judge entries

Search list

Advanced

Displaying 1 - 10 of 10

ID	Entry	Category	Status	Judging (copied from TEST) ©	PDF
54	Kurt Donnell	1st Year Nominee	To be scored	-	
168	Angus Schaal	1st Year Nominee	To be scored	-	
48	Jim Stevens	1st Year Nominee	To be scored	-	
171	Monica May-Dunn	1st Year Nominee	To be scored	-	
249	Bryan Ebersson	1st Year Nominee	To be scored	-	
127	Bryant W. Colman	1st Year Nominee	To be scored	-	
274	Stephanie Maderazzo-Hughes	1st Year Nominee	To be scored	-	

To start click on the entry name. The application will open.

What is the primary company industry? What is the main reason for the company?

Primary company industry: [dropdown menu]
Main reason for the company: [dropdown menu]

The following is the primary company industry: [dropdown menu]
The following is the main reason for the company: [dropdown menu]

What is the primary company industry? What is the main reason for the company?

Primary company industry: [dropdown menu]
Main reason for the company: [dropdown menu]

The following is the primary company industry: [dropdown menu]
The following is the main reason for the company: [dropdown menu]

Once done, click on Save + next or Save + close if you would like to pause from the judging activities at the moment.

If you would like to be able to view all your scores for each of your assigned applications on one screen, you will need to change the “Fields to Display”. To do this you will need to click on the Settings icon and select “2026 Chicago Judging Set.” Once selected then all your total scores will be displayed next to the candidates

My judging assignments → Judge entries

Search list Advance

Displaying 1 - 1

Select fields to display

Filter list

- ☒ 2026 Chicago Judging Set
- ☐ Accomplishment as a Titan
- ☐ As Titan of Industry
- ☒ Category

Save Cancel Reset

Category	Status	PDF	2026 Chicago Judging Set
ky, SIQR	2026 - 1st Year Nominee	Complete	22 / 2

« 1 » 50

However, in case of any conflict you identify in judging a particular application, please tick on both “Abstain from judging” and “Declare conflict of interest” located at the header of the application.

☐ Abstain from judging
 ☐ Declare conflict of interest

Judging Questions 1st year:

1. Tell us the entrepreneurial story that led this individual to launch, start or build their company. This also includes individuals who have ascended the ranks to their current position or individuals who have been brought into an organization to lead it to the next level.
2. Share the vision for your company, what will your company look like in the next 5 years.
3. What makes this individual a Titan in their industry?
4. Tell us about the nominee's accomplishments, both individually and any he/she helped the company achieve. These can include any honors, awards, published articles or speaking opportunities, etc. Of the nominee's accomplishments, which are they most proud of and why?

You will also give an overall score. The overall score should take into

consideration the following things. Your overall impression of this individual as a Titan of industry. Please consider the industry they represent and what they have done to model or demonstrate exceptional leadership, vision, passion, and influence in their field.

Scoring tips:

It is recommended that you judge your applicants as if they were competing against each other. How does the application of candidate #1 stack up against candidate #2?

Some judges will often read all the answers to question #19 to score them all before going onto #20, versus scoring a candidate completely and moving on to the next. As a judge, this is your prerogative.

Please also note that the length of text response for any one nominee does not always constitute a strong nomination. We are looking for quality of response over quantity. There are many PR and marketing firms that are strong wordsmiths and can fill up a page with wonderful filler words. Please use your best judgment and feel free to explore a company website, LinkedIn or google an individual if you feel the need for additional information.

Judges' comments:

There is also an option for judges' comments. You can only add a comment for an individual question after you've entered your score for that question. To add a judges' comment, fill out the comment box below the score you provided for that question.

Their Entrepreneurial Story

/ 5

Write a comment

Please take a minute to add a brief comment on something that stood out in the application question or something that was lacking if applicable. The more detailed that you can be in your notes for an application that received a poor score, the better. We will refer to your notes anonymously when asked by candidates for feedback if they were not selected to the program.

Thank you in advance for returning your scores on time to ensure we dedicate enough time to re-review specific individuals. We will tally the results and send out a specific grouping of individuals that fall slightly above and below the cut-off for re-evaluation. Not all the judges will need to participate in the re-evaluation.

Thank you again for helping us to determine the 100 Titans who will receive this prestigious recognition and be recognized as the 2026 Titan 100 of Chicago. We

prestigious recognition and be recognized as the 2020 Titan 100 of Chicago. We look forward to recognizing you and the judging committee at the awards program in February. Happy judging! 😊

Please let me know if you have any questions. I'm here to help. I'm more than happy to hop onto a call to go over the process with you.

Best,

Brennan Jones (she/her/hers)

Program & Alumni Director

Titan CEO

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First Year Titan
A first year Titan is able to demonstrate that they are in the top echelon in their field or industry. They have been recognized by their peers as a leader and have tangible awards or accolades to support those accomplishments. A first year Titan demonstrates that they are able to work through adversity and challenge to raise their company or organization up. A first year Titan has demonstrated consistent company growth - whether that is financially or expanding their workforce. A first year Titan is a strong leader and is ethical, consistent and moral in their decision making.
Award Requirements: Must be in business for three years (Founding year 2022 or earlier) Must be over \$1M in revenue Must be in a C-suite role - C-suite is identified as CEO, President, Founder or a member of the Senior Leadership Team at a larger organization. This person reports to the CEO.