

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Jan Giamanco, Executive Administrator  
Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA)  
844-288-4367 or Email: [exec.admin@accreditedgemologists.org](mailto:exec.admin@accreditedgemologists.org)



## **Postponement of 2021 Bonanno Award**

In consideration of the status of nominees in the international gemological community and the prestige associated with the Antonio C. Bonanno award for Excellence in Gemology presentation ceremony, the Accredited Gemologists Association's Board of Directors has elected to forego the presentation of a 2021 Bonanno Award. By tradition, the award ceremony would have occurred in February 2021 during the AGA Tucson Conference and Gala. However, the current state of COVID-19 spread in the USA prohibits an event of the customary standard in 2021.

In October 2021 AGA membership will cast their votes for the finalists from the illustrious list of nominees that were submitted by the July 2020 deadline. Presentation to the recipient of the next Bonanno Award is scheduled to occur during the AGA Gala in February 2022. There will be no call for nominees in 2021. The normal award process will return with the February 2023 award.

The AGA Board and Bonanno Award Committee feel that in light of the momentous level of nominations this year, it would be inappropriate to continue the process at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the AGA Tucson Conference to be presented as a virtual event in February 2021.

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