

The Philip M. Epstein Award for Excellence in Family Law

In 2024, the ***Philip M. Epstein Award for Excellence in Family Law*** was established by his family in his memory and honour. The Award is open for nominations every two years for a family law lawyer in Canada who has made significant contributions to any of the following during their legal career:

- (a) The advancement of family law in their jurisdiction and/or across Canada;
- (b) Family law education for the bar and bench in their jurisdiction and/or across Canada;
- (c) Improvements to the access to justice through *pro bono* and public service, including public interest litigation, in relation to family law-related matters;
- (d) Mentoring of and encouraging professional development of family lawyers and/or law students;
- (e) Fostering, by example and otherwise, civility and collegiality within the practice of family law and the family law bar;
- (f) Education of the public, law students, lawyers, and the judiciary about family law;
- (g) Excellence and distinction in family law litigation and/or dispute resolution in family law; and
- (h) Initiation and pursuit of law reform related to the field of family law.

The Award:

\$10,000 non-taxable cash prize.

Eligibility:

Candidates must be members in good standing of a Provincial law society **and** be primarily engaged in the practice of family law or dispute resolution in family law.

Nomination Process:

1. The deadline for nominations for the 2026 Award is Friday, May 1 at 4:00p.m. EST.

2. Please submit nomination packages to the attention of the Managing Partner at Epstein Cole LLP, Roslyn Tsao, by email only to rtsao@epsteincole.com. Acknowledgement of receipt will be provided.
3. Complete nomination packages must include:
 - (a) A Letter of Nomination by a third party with reference to the above-noted criteria;
 - (b) The nominee's *curriculum vitae*;
 - (c) A letter from the nominee of no more than two (2) pages; and
 - (d) A maximum of five (5) additional letters in support of the nominee with reference to the above-noted criteria.
4. The Selection Committee will be comprised of five (5) individuals:
 - (a) A current member of the National Family Law Program Committee;
 - (b) The Managing Partner or most senior partner (by year of call) at the law firm of Epstein Cole LLP;
 - (c) Aaron Franks or another representative of Philip Epstein's family; and
 - (d) Two other members selected by the other Committee members, one of whom may be a partner at Epstein Cole LLP.
5. No lawyer at Epstein Cole LLP at the time of award is eligible. The Selection Committee reserves the discretion to decline to name a recipient in a particular year.

The 2026 Award will be presented at the 2026 National Family Law Program in Kelowna
