

The Philip M. Epstein Award for Excellence in Family Law

Details and Terms of Reference:

In memory and honour of Philip M. Epstein, and sponsored by his family, the *Philip M. Epstein Award for Excellence in Family Law*, will be awarded at least every two years to a family law lawyer in Canada who has, during their legal career, demonstrated any of the following:

1. Contributions to the advancement of family law in their jurisdiction and/or across Canada.
2. Contributions to family law education for the bar and bench in their jurisdiction and/or across Canada.
3. Facilitating access to justice through *pro bono* and public service, including public interest litigation, in relation to family law-related matters.
4. Mentoring of and encouraging professional development of family lawyers and/or law students.
5. Fostering, by example and otherwise, civility and collegiality within the practice of family law and the family law bar.
6. Education of the public, law students, lawyers, and the judiciary about family law.
7. A commitment to excellence and distinction in family law litigation and/or dispute resolution in family law.
8. The initiation and pursuit of law reform related to the field of family law.

The Award may not be granted in a given year if no suitable nominations are received.

Award:

The Award comprises:

- (a) a cash award of \$10,000; and
- (b) registration for the next National Family Law Program – a program near and dear to Phil's heart.

Eligibility:

Candidates must be:

1. a member in good standing of a Provincial law society; and
2. be primarily engaged in the practice of family law or dispute resolution in family law.

Nomination Process:

1. The deadline for nominations is June 30th, 2024, and every second year thereafter (even-numbered years) unless otherwise publicized.
2. Nominations are to be submitted electronically to the Managing Partner at Epstein Cole LLP.
3. Only complete nomination packages will be considered and 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 2 pages; and
 - (d) A maximum of five additional letters in support of the nominee with reference to the above-noted criteria.
4. The Award will be administered by Epstein Cole LLP and the Selection Committee will be comprised of five people to include:
 - (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 M. Franks or such other representative of Philip Epstein's family as his family may nominate; 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 who is currently at Epstein Cole LLP is eligible for the Award.