

2008 Canadian Pro Bono Awards Criteria & Nominations

Pro Bono Law of British Columbia, Pro Bono Law Ontario, Pro Bono Law Alberta and Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan seek nominations for awards honouring individuals, groups, or organizations from anywhere in Canada for their outstanding pro bono contributions in the following three categories:

1. A law firm committed to pro bono
2. An individual actively involved in pro bono
3. A pro bono program serving the community

Awards will be presented at a Dinner and Awards Ceremony on September 18, 2008 as part of the 2008 National Pro Bono Conference in Vancouver.

If you know a deserving nominee, please take the opportunity to submit a nomination and help to recognize the contribution of lawyers and organizations to improving access to justice in Canada. Review the criteria below when formulating a nomination, and include a brief outline of the candidate/program's activities that merit the award as well as any letters in support of the nomination.

The deadline to submit a nomination is August 15, 2008.



Canadian National Pro Bono Law Firm Award

This award recognizes a Canadian law firm that has made an outstanding contribution to the provision of pro bono legal services. The awards committee will consider law firms that have made significant strides toward the establishment of policies and programs that encourage lawyers to volunteer to represent low-income individuals. The committee is particularly interested in firms that have demonstrated dedication to the development and delivery of legal services to low income recipients through a pro bono program or have contributed significant work toward developing innovative approaches to delivering volunteer legal services.

Canadian National Pro Bono Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes an individual Canadian lawyer who has made an outstanding contribution to the provision of pro bono legal services. Nominees may be individual lawyers who do not obtain their primary income delivering legal services to low-income clients. The awards committee will evaluate nominations on the basis of an individual's demonstrated leadership and activities to improving access to justice in their local area, in addition to the individual's demonstrated commitment to pro bono work on behalf of individual clients, communities, or charitable organizations.

Canadian National Pro Bono Program Award

This award recognizes a specific Canadian pro bono program that increases access to legal services for poor persons. The awards committee will consider a pro bono program that has achieved excellence in one or more of the categories:

- Addressing a gap in existing services or the unmet legal needs of a community
- Using innovative strategies to increase access to justice
- Enhancing private bar participation in pro bono activities
- Promoting collaboration between legal and community service providers

NOMINATIONS PROCESS

In order to submit a nomination, please provide one printed and one electronic copy of:

1. Completed Nominations Form
2. Narrative explaining why the individual or group is being nominated and why they deserve to win the award. This section should be limited to five pages and provide background information about the individual/group, the pro bono activities undertaken and the impact of these activities.
3. Letters of support

Nominations may be submitted to:

Pro Bono Law of British Columbia
P.O. Box 103
845 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 4Z9
Attention: Jamie Maclaren, Executive Director
awards@probononet.bc.ca

Nominations submitted after August 15, 2008 will not be reviewed.

SELECTION PROCESS

All nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee, which is constituted by senior representatives of Pro Bono Law of British Columbia, Pro Bono Law Ontario, Pro Bono Law Alberta and Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan.

Award recipients will be notified no later than August 29, 2008.