



PRESS RELEASE

2017 Robert-Sauvé Award – Announcement of the Nomination Period

Montreal, March 31, 2017. – M^e Yvan Niquette, Chairman of the Commission des services juridiques du Québec, is pleased to announce the opening of the nomination period for the 2017 Robert-Sauvé Award. “I invite all individuals and organizations to highlight the ongoing commitment of an individual who works or has worked to meet the needs of people affected by poverty and ensure they are able to assert their rights,” stated M^e Niquette.

The Robert-Sauvé Award honours the exceptional contribution of two individuals who have worked to promote the rights of the less fortunate. One prize is awarded to someone working within the Québec legal aid network (network category) and another to someone working outside the legal aid network (general public category). The contributions of nominees must span several years and their activities must have taken place in Québec. The prize will be awarded in the fall of 2017.

The Robert-Sauvé Award, an honorary distinction, is named after the founding chairman of legal aid in Québec, the Honourable Robert Sauvé, Chairman of the Commission des services juridiques from 1972 to 1977. Robert Sauvé was convinced that the creation of a legal aid system was essential to ensuring access to justice for all Québécois. Winners of the award therefore have the privilege of being associated with one of the most ardent defenders of the rights of the less fortunate.

Submitting a Nomination

Any person or organization wishing to submit one or more nominees for consideration must send a complete nomination file that includes a nomination form, an introductory letter, two letters of support as well as a description of the nominee’s career and exceptional acts. Nomination forms are available on-line at www.csj.qc.ca and in community legal centres in each region. Complete nomination files must be sent before **June 1, 2017** to the following address:

Robert-Sauvé Award Committee
Commission des services juridiques
2, Complexe Desjardins, East Tower, #1404
P.O. Box 123, Station Desjardins
Montréal, Québec, H5B 1B3

About the Commission des services juridiques

The Commission des services juridiques is the agency charged with applying the *Act respecting legal aid and the provision of certain other legal services* in Québec. Legal aid may be granted to anyone who is financially eligible, in order to cover various legal services involving civil, family, administrative, criminal, health, immigration or youth law matters. It is also the agency charged with offering the services provided for in the *Act to promote access to justice in family matters*, namely, the Homologation Assistance Service (HAS) and the Service administratif de rajustement des pensions alimentaires pour enfants (SARPA), a child support recalculation service.

For more information, please visit the Web site of the Commission des services juridiques at: <http://www.csj.qc.ca/>.

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