2026 AWARDS: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

This year FACL Ontario is pleased to announce that it will be accepting nominations/applications for the following Awards:

- FACL Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award
- FACL Ontario Lawyer of Distinction Award
- FACL Ontario Young Lawyer of the Year Award
- FACL Ontario Social Justice Award
- FACL Ontario Public Sector Lawyer Award
- FACL Ontario Corporate Diversity and Leadership Award
- FACL Ontario Mentor of the Year Award

AWARD NOMINATIONS PROCESS

Nominations for the above-noted Awards must be submitted by no later than 23:59:59 EST on **January 25, 2026**.

- Nomination packages must include:
  - the nominee's full name, organization, year of call and email address,
  - the nominator's full name, organization and email address,
  - a high-resolution photograph of the nominee,
  - the award for which the nominee is to be considered,
  - a description of how the nominee meets the criteria for the award, including their connection to Ontario (1000 word max.),
  - a completed consent form (which can be found on the FACL website) signed by the nominee and the nominator, and
  - contact information for two references.
- It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that the nomination package is complete.
- Prior to making the nomination, nominators must advise the nominee that his or her name is being put forward.
- No nomination materials will be returned. Nominations and nominations packages will be reviewed only by members of the Board of Directors of FACL Ontario and will otherwise remain strictly confidential.
- All nomination packages must be submitted electronically to awardss@facl.ca.

SELECTION PROCESS

- FACL Ontario will review each nomination/application package that meets the eligibility criteria set out below.
- FACL Ontario exercises sole and absolute discretion to determine Award eligibility and Award recipients.
- FACL Ontario's decisions are final and there is no right of appeal against any decision.
- Award recipients will be notified of FACL Ontario's decision as soon as is practicable.
- Those not selected may not be notified.

ELIGIBILITY*

1. FACL Ontario Young Lawyer of the Year Award

The FACL Ontario Young Lawyer of the Year Award recognizes an Asian-Canadian legal professional, who has practiced law for no more than 10 years, for achievements which are beyond what is expected of him or her based on his or her experience. Achievements may include exceptional contributions to one or more of the following areas:

- the profession
- social justice
- the Bar
- the Asian community
- the practice of law
- FACL Ontario

To be eligible for the FACL Ontario Young Lawyer of the Year Award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- Is:
    - a member in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario and practices predominantly in Ontario; or
    - teaches at a law school in Ontario and is a member in good standing with any law society in Canada
- Has practiced law for no more than 10 years
- Has achievements which are beyond what is expected of them based on their experience. Achievements may include exceptional contribution to the profession, the Bar, the practice of law, social justice, the Asian community and/or FACL Ontario

2. FACL Ontario Social Justice Award

The FACL Ontario Social Justice Award recognizes a person, organization or company which has demonstrated achievements in at least one of the following areas:

- Diversity
- Public service
- Innovation
- Professional Development
- Leadership
- Philanthropy
- Furthering the goals of FACL Ontario
- Volunteerism

To be eligible for the FACL Ontario Social Justice Award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- The nominee must be a resident of the Ontario
- The nominee must have demonstrated achievements in at least one of the following areas: diversity, innovation, leadership, furthering the goals of FACL Ontario, public service, professional development, philanthropy, and/or volunteerism

3. FACL Ontario Public Sector Lawyer Award

The FACL Ontario Public Sector Lawyer Award recognizes an Asian-Canadian legal professional for significant accomplishments in the practice of law in the public sector, with an emphasis on service to the legal profession, areas of social justice and/or the Asian community.

To be eligible for the FACL Ontario Public Sector Lawyer Award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- Is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario and practices predominantly in Ontario
- Has demonstrated significant accomplishments in the law
- Has served the legal profession, areas of social justice, public sector law and/or the Asian community

4. FACL Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award

The FACL Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an Asian-Canadian legal professional, who has practiced and/or taught law for a minimum of 25 years, for significant and longstanding contributions made to the legal community and for positive contributions made to social justice and/or the Asian community.

To be eligible for the FACL Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- Is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario and practices predominantly in Ontario, OR is a judge of any court in Ontario, OR teaches at a law school in Ontario and is a member in good standing with any law society in Canada
- Has practiced and/or taught law for a minimum of 25 years
- Has demonstrated significant and longstanding contributions to the legal community
- Has demonstrated positive contributions to social justice and/or the Asian community

5. FACL Ontario Lawyer of Distinction Award

The FACL Ontario Lawyer of Distinction Award recognizes an Asian-Canadian legal professional, who has practiced law for a minimum of 10 years, for significant accomplishments in the law and for service to the legal profession, areas of social justice and/or the Asian community.

To be eligible for the FACL Ontario Lawyer of Distinction Award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- Is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario and practices predominantly in Ontario, OR is a judge of any court in Ontario, OR teaches at a law school in Ontario and is a member in good standing with any law society in Canada
- Has practiced law for a minimum of 10 years
- Has demonstrated significant accomplishments in the law
- Has served the legal profession, areas of social justice and/or the Asian community

6. FACL Ontario Corporate Diversity and Leadership Award

The FACL Ontario Corporate Diversity and Leadership Award recognizes an individual or organization in the corporate sector who has demonstrated exceptional leadership towards achieving greater diversity and inclusion among the bar.

7. FACL Ontario Mentor of the Year Award

The FACL Ontario Mentor of the Year Award recognizes an Asian-Canadian legal professional who has demonstrated a positive impact on members of the Asian community through mentorship.

To be eligible for the FACL Ontario Mentor of the Year Award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- Is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario and practices predominantly in Ontario
- Has demonstrated mentor attributes in at least one of the following areas: being a connector, strong communicator, sharing wisdom, modeling or supporting work-life integration, having integrity and authenticity, and being accessible and approachable
- Has continuously made a positive impact on the professional development and career trajectory of members of the Asian community through mentorship

Directors of FACL Ontario are not eligible to be nominated for, or to receive, a FACL Ontario Award. Former directors of FACL Ontario will not be eligible to be nominated for, or to receive, a FACL Ontario Award for a period of 3 years following the date on which they ceased to be a board member.