



Information about FACL Ontario's Awards and the Omatsu FACL Ontario Scholarship

FACL Ontario presents the following awards and scholarships:

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Omatsu FACL Ontario Scholarship

(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 s/he ceased to be a board member.)

FACL Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award

The FACL Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an Asian-Canadian legal professional, who has practiced 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:

- ✓ S/he self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- ✓ S/he:

- is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Upper Canada 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
- ✓ S/he has practiced law for a minimum of 25 years
- ✓ S/he has demonstrated significant and longstanding contributions to the legal community
- ✓ S/he has demonstrated positive contributions to social justice and/or to the Asian community

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:

- ✓ S/he self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- ✓ S/he:
 - is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Upper Canada 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
- ✓ S/he has practiced law for a minimum of 10 years
- ✓ S/he has demonstrated significant accomplishments in the law
- ✓ S/he has served the legal profession, areas of social justice and/or the Asian community

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

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

- ✓ S/he self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- ✓ S/he:
 - is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Upper Canada 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
- ✓ S/he has practiced law for no more than 10 years
- ✓ S/he has achievements which are beyond what is expected of him or her based on his or her experience. Achievements may include exceptional contribution to the profession, the Bar, the practice of law, social justice, the Asian community and/or FACL Ontario

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

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

- ✓ He/She/It is a resident of the Province of Ontario

- ✓ He/She/It has 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

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:

- ✓ S/he self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)
- ✓ S/he is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Upper Canada and practices predominantly in Ontario
- ✓ S/he has demonstrated significant accomplishments in the law
- ✓ S/he has served the legal profession, areas of social justice, public sector law and/or the Asian community

Omatsu FACL Ontario Scholarship

The Omatsu FACL Ontario Scholarship was established to honour Justice Maryka Omatsu, Canada's first East Asian woman judge. Before her appointment to the bench, Justice Omatsu practised law in Toronto for 16 years. She worked for all levels of government and taught in China, Japan and Toronto. She was Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Appeals' Tribunal and a LSUC referee. During the 1980s, Justice Omatsu was a member of the National Association of Japanese Canadians' negotiation team and helped win Redress for her community for the WWII violations. In 1992, her book, *Bittersweet Passage: Redress and the Japanese Canadian Experience*, won several prizes and was published in Japan. In February 1993, Justice Omatsu was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice. She has presided in Toronto's criminal courts, co-chaired the National Judge's Association Equality and Diversity Committee, and co-edited a manual on Section 15 of the Charter. She retired from the bench in 2012. Justice Omatsu has received FACL Ontario's Lifetime Achievement Award, Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Medal and numerous other awards and honours. Justice Omatsu is one of FACL Ontario's founders.

Scholarship awards in the amount of \$1,000 each or more are awarded annually to one or more law students based on the following considerations:

- *Leadership & Community Involvement*
- *Law Student Vision*
- *Academics*
- *Financial Need*

- *Personal Statement*

The successful applicant must also meet all of the following criteria:

- *Self-identifies as of Asian descent (East Asian, Southeast Asian, or South Asian)*
- *Has demonstrated some past, current, and/or future involvement in promoting social justice*
- *Has appropriate status in Canada (either citizen or permanent resident)*
- *Is a student enrolled at a law school in Canada*
- *Is a member of FACL*

**Nominations/Applications for awards and scholarships
should be sent to awardss@facl.ca.**