



TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Nicholas Bala Award for Excellence in Children and Family Law

This would be a cash award to a student enrolled in a graduate level social work, joint social work/law or law (LL.B./Juris Doctor) program who is interested in interdisciplinary work in family law. The award will be for \$1,000 annually.

Background

One award per year will be granted by AFCC Ontario to a student enrolled in a graduate level social work, joint social work/law program or LL.B. (Juris Doctor) program at a publicly funded university. In addition to scholastic achievement, applicants must also have a demonstrated commitment to interdisciplinary work in family law.

Membership of Selection Committee

There will be three (3) members of the AFCC Ontario Board, including a Chair, on the selection Committee. The recommendation of the recipient may be determined by a minimum of two (2) committee members, including the Chair.

Selection Committee members are named by the AFCC Board of Directors. Each member will serve a three (3) year term with the possibility of renewal.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for ensuring that the integrity of the evaluation process is respected by the selection committee. The Chair guides the Committee toward consensus and ensures that all members participate in the decision-making process.

Eligibility

The award is open to all students enrolled in either a joint social work/law program (University of Toronto, Windsor), any of the six (6) law schools in Ontario or any of the eleven (11) schools of social work at the graduate level.

Each application shall be based on merit and the following credentials:

The student must demonstrate an interest in and commitment to interdisciplinary work in family law. The application will include an abstract and article which is based on a research proposal that focuses on interdisciplinary collaboration regarding family law. Specifically, the student will outline how family law can be improved from a social work/law perspective.

- (a) The student must submit a maximum 10 page, double-spaced paper, (plus an abstract of up to 500 words) that focuses on interdisciplinary collaboration between law and social sciences in dealing with family law issues;, (40 points).
- (b) recommendations from one academic and one personal reference letters (25 points);
- (c) scholastic achievement (official transcript 25 points);
- (d) a resident of Ontario (he/she must reside in Ontario for a minimum of 12 consecutive months prior to entering into program studies) (10 points).

TOTAL = 100 points

Evaluation Process

The Selection Committee is responsible for evaluating the applications and recommending recipients.

The evaluation process for the Committee is as follows:

- (a) members are sent copies of all applications;
- (b) members review and prepare short list to be sent to Chair;
- (c) selection committee meets and chooses one applicant

Announcement of Award Recipient

The successful recipient will be notified by telephone and their name will be published in the AFCC Ontario Newsletter and posted on AFCC website. Successful applicants can only apply every three years and must provide their SIN numbers.

Conflict of Interest

As a member of the Selection Committee, if for any reason, members have a conflict of interest they must declare it to the Chair before they review any applications. No member of the Selection Committee can write letters of reference or provide testimonials on behalf of any applicant.