

**LORD READING LAW SOCIETY**

**75<sup>th</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY  
GALA**

***April 4, 2024***

75

# *Legal Legacies: A Conversation*

**HON. MORRIS J. FISH, C.C., Q.C.  
AND BRIAN H. GREENSPAN,  
MODERATED BY  
JUSTICE NICOLE DUVAL HESLER**



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<b>RYAN SANFT</b>	LIAISON – BAR
<b>WILLIAM MALKINSON</b>	LIAISON – CHAMBER OF NOTARIES
<b>ROBERT RAPP</b>	LIAISON – CHAMBER OF NOTARIES
<b>JONATHAN GORDON</b>	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



## Our History

The Lord Reading Law Society (the “**LRLS**”) was formed in 1948 in response to antisemitism. The Quebec Bar had organized its annual meeting at a Mont-Tremblant hotel that had a policy of “NO Jews and NO dogs,” which was common practice at that time. Although the hotel relented to allow Jewish guests to attend the meeting, the Jewish lawyers organized their own event as a protest, and the LRLS was born, named after the Marquess and Earl of Reading, Lord Rufus Daniel Isaacs, the first Jewish Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales.

One of the Society’s mandates was to increase Jewish representation at the Quebec and Montreal Bars and on the Bench. After several Jewish Bâtonniers and judges were named, as well as the nomination of the first Jewish member of the Supreme Court of Canada, Mme. Justice Rosalie Abella, the LRLS and its members were lulled into believing antisemitism was a thing of the past.

While it may have been socially unacceptable until recently to express it openly, since October 7, 2023, we have sadly learned that antisemitism remains a form of ethnic hatred that we must continue to combat and conquer.

This makes the second part of the LRLS’s mandate, the defense and protection of human rights, more essential today than ever before. Not only have we advocated before the Quebec National Assembly and the Courts to defend minority language and religious rights, the LRLS must continue to be a vehicle for actively combatting antisemitism and all forms of discrimination, whether based on religion, ethnicity, gender or otherwise.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

- 1948-50** \*BENJAMIN ROBINSON, Q.C.  
**1950-52** \*LOUIS FITCH, Q.C.  
**1952-54** \*MICHAEL GARBER, Q.C.  
**1954-56** \*PHILIP MEYEROVITCH, Q.C.  
**1956-58** \*JOSEPH SHAPIRO, Q.C.  
**1958-60** \*NE. RAPPAPORT, Q.C.  
**1960-62** \*J. HARRY BLUMENSTEIN, Q.C.  
**1962-63** \*SAMUEL CHAIT, Q.C.  
**1963-64** \*MONROE ABBEY, Q.C.  
**1964-65** \*MOSES YELIN, Q.C.  
**1965-66** \*HAROLD S. FREEMAN, Q.C.  
**1966-67** \*MELVIN SALMON, Q.C.  
**1967-68** MANUEL SHACTER, Q.C., Ad. E.  
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**1969-70** \*E. MICHAEL BERGER, Q.C.  
**1970-71** FRED KAUFMAN, Q.C.  
**1971-72** \*NATHANIEL H. SALOMON  
**1972-73** YOINE GOLDSTEIN, Ad. E.  
**1973-74** \*SAMUEL GODINSKY, Q.C.  
**1974-75** \*LEO ROSENTZVEIG, Q.C.  
**1975-76** MORRIS CHAIKELSON  
**1976-77** \*JOSEPH A. MENDELSON, Q.C.  
**1977-78** \*ABRAHAM SHUSTER, Q.C.  
**1978-79** WILLIAM FRAIBERG  
**1979-80** ARTHUR I. BRONSTEIN  
**1980-81** PHILIP SHAPOSNICK  
**1981-82** L. MICHAEL BLUMENSTEIN  
**1982-83** \*JULIAN KOTLER, Q.C.  
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**1985-86** MAX R. BERNARD, Ad. E.  
**1986-87** RAPHAEL H. SCHACHTER, Q.C., Ad. E.  
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**1988-89** MAX MENDELSON  
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**1992-93** MICHAEL D. WORSOFF  
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**1995-96** GERALD KANDESTIN  
**1996-97** SHARON G. DRUKER, Ad. E.  
**1997-98** CASPER M. BLOOM, Q.C., Ad. E.  
**1998-99** STEVEN B. KATKIN  
**1999-00** \*ARNOLD ISAACSON  
**2000-01** ALAN M. STEIN  
**2001-02** MICHAEL D. LEVINSON  
**2002-03** IAN M. SOLLOWAY  
**2003-04** SUZANNE COSTOM  
**2004-05** THEODORE GOLOFF  
**2005-06** ALLAN ADEL  
**2006-07** REISA TEITELBAUM  
**2007-08** MARK SCHRAGER  
**2008-09** RONALD H. LEVY  
**2009-10** IRWIN RUDICK  
**2010-11** DAVID STOLOV  
**2011-12** ROBIN SCHILLER  
**2012-13** MARA GREENSTONE  
**2013-14** HEATHER MICHELIN  
**2014-15** NANCY CLEMAN  
**2015-16** STEVEN SLIMOVITCH  
**2016-17** LARRY MARKOWITZ  
**2017-18** DAVID ETTEDGUI  
**2018-19** INNA NEKHIM  
**2019-20** GREGORY AZANCOT  
**2020-21** ANDREW KLIGER  
**2021-22** DOREE LEVINE  
**2022-23** JONATHAN GORDON

\* *deceased*

## **THE LORD READING SOCIETY'S HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD RECIPIENTS SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1994**

IRWIN COTLER

MAX BERNARD

HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JULES DESCHÊNES

DAVID MATAS

JEROME SHESTACK

HONOURABLE MADAME JUSTICE LOUISE ARBOUR

PETER LEUPRECHT

A. ALAN BOROVOY

LGEN ROMÉO DALLAIRE

CASPER M. BLOOM, Q.C.

PROFESSOR JOHN P. HUMPHREY (posthumously)

JAYNE STOYLES

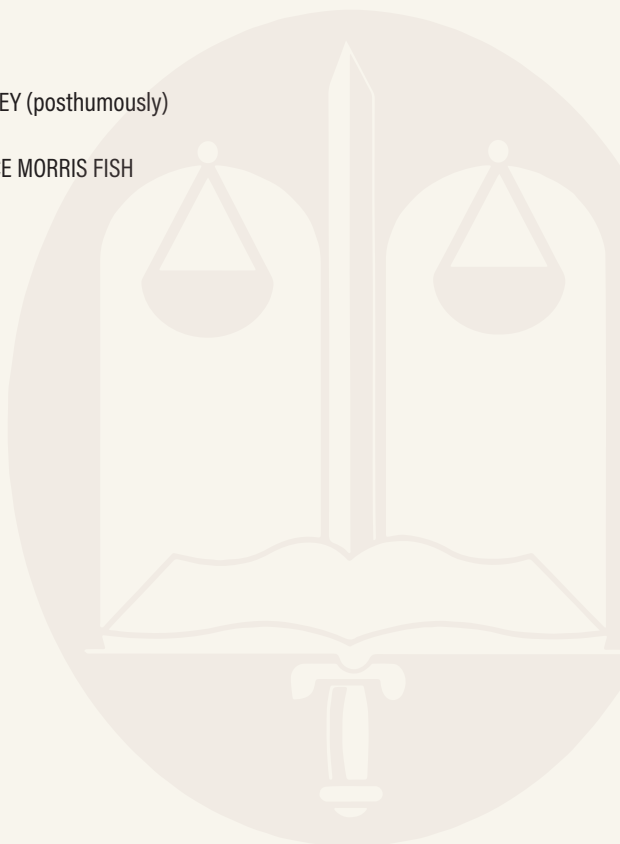
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE MORRIS FISH

FO NIEMI

ESTHER MUJAWAYO

PROFESSOR RENÉ PROVOST

ALEXIA KORBERG



# The LRLS Human Rights Essay Contest

**We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Society's Human Rights Essay Contest.** This contest not only pays homage to the remarkable legacy of The Lord Reading Law Society, but also seeks to delve into the most significant Canadian human rights issues in 2024 from a legal perspective. This essay contest is intended to serve as a testament to the Society's commitment to human rights, the pursuit of justice, and the defence of the rule of law.

We invite all lawyers, notaries, law professors and law students to participate in this unique opportunity to contribute to the advancement of human rights law in Canada. Embrace the opportunity to express your thoughts and insights in either English or French, crafting an essay that addresses your perspective on the most pressing human rights issues relevant to current Canadian law. The field of topics that may be addressed is intended to be broad and submissions may address issues related to race, religion, language, indigenous rights, LGBTQ+, refugees, freedom of expression or any other human rights question that might be of interest, whether related to the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the use of the "Notwithstanding clause", the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, case law, legal procedure, or anything of the contributor's choosing pertaining to the foregoing.

Authors are allotted up to 2000 words (exclusive of footnotes) to make a compelling legal argument. To submit, authors must send their essay in electronic format (Word or PDF) to [submissions@lordreading.org](mailto:submissions@lordreading.org) **by August 15, 2024 at 5 PM EST with the subject "YOUR NAME – Human Rights Essay."**

The grand prize winners will each receive cash prizes, in addition to a Lord Reading membership for a single season and a pass to attend two Lord Reading events free of charge during such season!

For more information, please consult the following website:  
**[lordreading.org/75th-anniversary-essay-contest/](http://lordreading.org/75th-anniversary-essay-contest/)**



# Message from Current LRLS President Robert Steinman



Welcome to this momentous occasion! It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Executive and Board of Directors of the Lord Reading Law Society, to welcome all of you to **our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner**.

It is so wonderful to welcome our distinguished panel of speakers, honorable judges and other dignitaries such as politicians from the provincial and federal governments. I also wish to welcome the loyal Lord Reading membership that keeps the Society strong, and our friends and colleagues from across the legal community who frequently attend our events and support our important work.

I want to sincerely thank our many sponsors who stepped up for this special occasion when the Society's work has never been more important. We so very much appreciate your generous support!

After three quarters of a century, it is worthwhile to reflect on our heritage and our *raison d'être*. The Society was founded during a dark and difficult time for Jewish members of the Bar, and while times have changed and much has progressed, we currently find ourselves again in a trying and challenging time for the Jewish community and indeed all who abhor extremism and value the rule of law.

The Lord Reading Law Society's mission to represent the Jewish legal community of Quebec and defend the rights of minorities across Canada is more important than ever, and during our challenging era – at home and abroad – that work continues to be critical.

*Mazel tov* to The Society on this huge milestone! We cannot wait to continue our work with all our friends and allies, and to continue to educate and inspire the wider legal community!



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

**Message from the Governor General on the  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lord Reading Law Society**

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone gathered for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala of the Lord Reading Law Society.

Throughout my career, I have sought to raise awareness of the realities of Inuit, Métis and First Nations communities. I have witnessed and contributed to the evolution of our legal system in terms of diversity, equity and inclusion, issues that have always been my priority. Collectively, we have made great strides in these areas, but there is still much to be done to build on this progress and create a country that truly offers equal opportunities to each and every one of us.

For the last 75 years, members and supporters of the Lord Reading Law Society have been dedicated to human rights, equality for all and legal education. Their social involvement and achievements are a great source of inspiration, and it is my hope that their actions will continue to bring about the changes we need to build the stronger, more prosperous nation to which we aspire.

Congratulations to everyone involved in reaching this significant milestone.

I wish you a wonderful event.

Mary Simon





PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

April 4, 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Lord Reading Law Society's 75th Anniversary Gala dinner.

For the past 75 years, the Lord Reading Law Society has been committed to supporting Jewish jurists in Quebec. This event offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the organization's proud history, to celebrate its many achievements and to set goals for the future.

I would like to thank the members of the Lord Reading Law Society for their commitment to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for fostering fellowship in the legal community.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable experience.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada



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