



**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Fatima Ahmed has completed degrees in law, peace studies, education, disaster management, educational leadership, project management, and computer science. Fatima was a mature student and came to law school after careers in community development and teaching. During law school, she completed the CLASSIC clinical law intensive and Osgoode's Intensive Program in Indigenous Lands, Resources & Governments; she completed an academic exchange in Finland, where she primarily took international law courses; and she mooted in the Bowman Tax Moot competition. Fatima was recently awarded the ASIL Helton Fellowship, for which she intends to undertake field research on the ongoing genocide of Rohingya Muslims.

University of Saskatchewan

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

A University of Ottawa graduate in civil law, **Maude Boucher** has been involved in legal and social initiatives, including Pro Bono Students Canada and the student association, Lawyers Without Borders. She wishes to pursue a Master's degree in international law to help strengthen the international criminal justice system and fight against impunity.

Université d'Ottawa (Droit civil)

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Alyssa Collins brought to law school extensive experience in youth justice, children's rights advocacy, and crisis intervention. While studying, she was a Program Coordinator for PBSC, Co-President of the Human Rights Law Club and a Level Social Justice Fellow. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors for Crisis Centre BC and is currently articling with the Department of Justice Canada.

Thompson Rivers University

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Olivia Coombe is a queer-trans Toronto lawyer with twenty years' experience organizing community projects and public interest advocacy. Her legal work spans civil litigation, *Charter* rights, healthcare and disability advocacy, administrative appeals, and family law matters. She is dedicated to advancing 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, decolonization, intersectional judicial diversity, and her clients' interests.

Toronto Metropolitan University

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Zachary Jericho Couture is Palestinian and Franco-Albertan, raised on Treaty 6 territory. Zac is honoured to have had the opportunity to do legal work in public interest spaces supporting LGBTQ+ rights, environmental justice, migrant and refugee rights, the houseless community, and the revitalization of Indigenous legal orders. He has published a peer-reviewed article on justice barriers for international students and placed first in the international Baxter Family Competition for his essay on Canadian federalism and the unjust denial of Indigenous legal jurisdictions. In July 2025, he presented his paper on climate litigation and environmental racism at an international conference in Seoul, South Korea. Zac aims to continue using critical scholarship and legal advocacy to advance the rights of marginalized communities.

The University of British Columbia

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Sahar Fatima was raised in Scarborough, where she developed a deep commitment to advocating for the rights of underrepresented and underserved communities. At Osgoode, Sahar held various leadership roles, including Co-Founder and Co-President of the Immigration and Refugee Law Society. She worked at the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, supporting victims of intimate partner violence with their immigration law matters. Sahar is articling at an immigration law firm and will then complete a clerkship at the Federal Court. She aspires to build a legal career rooted in social justice, equity, and compassion.

York University

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Léa Mark Guillemette has always wanted to contribute to a more just and inclusive world. In college, she was involved in doing so as the coordinator of the feminist committee and editor-in-chief of the student newspaper. She hopes to continue to follow her community involvement path in the future. She recently completed her Master's degree in law and life sciences with her writing of an essay on ecocide.

Université de Sherbrooke

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





Ghallia Hashem, Windsor Law student and two-year President of the UWSA, has received awards for her leadership, equity advocacy, and governance work. With degrees in Biopsychology and Education, she is passionate about public speaking and mentorship, and is dedicated to supporting and empowering the next generation of leaders.

**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

The Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize is presented annually to a graduating law student in each of the law schools in Canada who is most likely to positively influence equity and social justice in Canada or globally upon graduation.

University of Windsor

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Furyal Hussain is involved in numerous social justice and equity initiatives. During her Bachelor's studies, she founded a scholarship program for underprivileged students in Pakistan while volunteering with the Elizabeth Fry Society to serve marginalized populations. In law school, Furyal served as President of the Muslim Law Students' Association, as a Caseworker for Student Legal Services, as the Director of Wellness for the Law Students' Association, and as Elected Representative of the Faculty's EDI Committee. She strives to continue to serve her community.

University of Alberta

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Humaira Jaleel is a community advocate and founder of *Healthy Muslim Families*, a charity serving immigrant and refugee populations. She has developed and led transformative initiatives, including the *Court Diversion for Racialized Communities* program, as well as the *Access to Justice* project, to run legal clinics focused on helping women facing domestic violence and legal precarity. These programs bridge gaps in legal literacy and service delivery for racialized newcomers and address longstanding barriers rooted in systemic inequity. A JD graduate, Humaira aims to build her practice guided by a commitment to equity, access to justice, and the creation of culturally safe spaces for those often excluded from mainstream legal systems.

University of Manitoba

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

As a grandchild of Residential School Survivors, **Sierra Jones-McLeod** is a proud Oji-Cree woman from Garden River First Nation and a graduate of Queen's University's Faculty of Law. During law school, she served as a Co-Chair of the Indigenous Law Students' Alliance and as a Student Caseworker with the Queen's Prison Law Clinic and Advanced Prison Law Clinic. In her role as Student Caseworker, Sierra advocated for Indigenous offenders through federal human rights complaints, grievances, and parole hearings, ensuring their Indigenous rights were meaningfully recognized within Federal Correctional Institutions. Sierra is deeply committed to social justice through criminal defence with a focus on addressing the overincarceration of Indigenous people in Canada. Sierra is currently articling with Legal Aid Ontario in both criminal and family law, where she applies her heritage and education to support marginalized communities and advocates for access to justice.

Queen's University

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Hedyeh Karimian has held various leadership roles throughout law school, advocating for student rights and advancing accessibility, immigration, and housing justice. She served on UVic's institution-wide Scarborough Charter Steering Committee, promoting equity and systemic reform. In her 2L year, she co-created BeBetter with federally incarcerated peoples; now a federal non-profit delivering legal advocacy, education, and systemic reform for marginalized communities. Hedyeh also consults on AI liability, exploring technology's role in expanding access to justice worldwide.

University of Victoria

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

A recent law graduate, **Alex Laurent** is committed to helping build a more egalitarian society. Through his research on medically assisted death and his involvement with Université Laval's Civil Law Clinic, he defends the dignity of vulnerable individuals and advances the fair access to justice.

Université Laval

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Rachel Lewis graduated from the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, focusing on promoting equity and accessibility for individuals with diverse abilities. Her community engagement includes working in after-school programs and coaching youth soccer in a priority neighbourhood. During her legal studies, Rachel worked as a research assistant, supported neurodiversity mentorship initiatives, and co-developed a neurodiversity workshop with British Columbia's Access to Justice Centre of Excellence. She also served as the National Director of Advocacy for BLSA Canada from 2022 to 2023, which led a census report on Black law student representation. She also co-authored articles on equity and neurodiversity and served as a panellist for organizations such as the Stanford Neurodiversity Project.

University of Ottawa (Common Law)

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Marina Luro graduated from the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law in 2025. During her time in law school, Marina's enduring passion for social justice and human rights led her to take on leadership roles in both the Feminist Legal Association and the International Law Society. Since graduating, she has been involved with human rights and transitional justice work in Guatemala, and will be completing her articling year at Stewart McKelvey in Halifax before beginning a clerkship with the British Columbia Court of Appeal. Marina aims to build a career dedicated to international human rights and humanitarian law.

University of New Brunswick

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Originally from Chad, **Nabila Mahamat** earned a degree in law and a Master's degree in public administration at the Université de Moncton. During her studies, she promoted diversity and equity by working with the Refugee Clinic, serving on the BLSA board, and participating in an immigration moot court competition.

Université de Moncton

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Samantha Misner has worked on issues from refugee rights and disability advocacy to women's legal empowerment. During her JD/MGA, she supported migrants at the Canada-US Border Rights Clinic, advanced advocacy through the International Human Rights Program, and led human rights research in India and Brazil. She is currently articling at Luke's Place, supporting women experiencing intimate partner violence.

University of Toronto

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Samer Mohamed is a graduating student from the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law, whose work focuses on equity, human rights, and institutional reform. As VP of EDI for the Society of Law Students, she led key initiatives to address discrimination and improve accountability. Her leadership reflects a strong commitment to systemic change and social justice in Canada. She is articling at Field Law in Edmonton.

University of Calgary

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Kim Plourde, a law graduate from the Université du Québec à Montréal, advocates for justice and equality on a daily basis. Through her strong involvement with the Social Justice Clinic, she uses her expertise to defend the rights of vulnerable people. As a member of the UQAM First Peoples Action Committee, she promotes the interests of Indigenous peoples and contributes to the implementation of recommendations for true inclusion. She is a lawyer who is deeply committed to effectively promoting justice and bringing about meaningful change.

Université du Québec à Montréal

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

While in law school, **Hina Rani** directed the Montreal Workers' Rights Legal Clinic and volunteered as a caseworker at the Native Friendship Centre. She also worked as a research assistant, exploring the revitalization of Indigenous legal orders. Hina hopes to continue advancing social justice imperatives as she articulates at Cavalluzzo LLP.

McGill University

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Prabsimran Sidhu's unwavering commitment to social equity is reflected throughout her law school journey as a member of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization Committee, along with her roles with various Western Law societies. Her devotion to promoting access to justice and advocating for marginalized and vulnerable groups continued with her research for Pro Bono Students Canada and her involvement with the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. She is currently articling with the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario.

Western University

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Cassandra Spade (she/her) is a human rights activist from the Mishkeegogamang First Nation, located in Northwestern Ontario. She is the founder of Gaa-Minwaajindizowaaj, a grassroots organization that provides Anishinaabe language and cultural programming. During her studies, she contributed to projects that increased access and awareness about Anishinaabe language and law.

Cass indizhi-gikenimigoo. Ninndanishinaabekwew, Mishkeegogamang geniin nindoonjii, nisawayi'ii ningaabi'anong giwedionon inake. Gojijiing ishkoniganing nigii-izhi-ombig gaye. Name nindoodem. Mii iwe Gaa-minwaajindizowaaj ("GAAM") nindoozhitoon ji-aanikenamawidwaa abinoojiinyag anishinaabemowin.

Lakehead University

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners



**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

*The Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize is
presented annually to a
graduating law student in
each of the law schools in
Canada who is most likely to
positively influence equity
and social justice in Canada
or globally upon graduation.*

Ana Speranza graduated with an Aboriginal and Indigenous Law Specialization Certificate. She is passionate about human rights, international law, and improving access to justice and has volunteered with the Centre for Migrant Worker Rights Nova Scotia and the Canada-US Border Rights Clinic. Ana is completing her articles at the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee in Ontario ahead of a clerkship at the Federal Court.

Dalhousie University

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners





Celeste Trianon is the founder of Juritrans, a legal clinic and civil rights advocacy organization for trans people in Québec. A fearless advocate, she continues to defend the fundamental rights of her community, through education, litigation, and combating disinformation.

**Justice Rosalie
Silberman Abella Prize**

The Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize is presented annually to a graduating law student in each of the law schools in Canada who is most likely to positively influence equity and social justice in Canada or globally upon graduation.

Université de Montréal

Royal Society of Canada | 2025 Award Winners

