



**CHRISTINE HUGLO
ROBERTSON
ESSAY PRIZE**

2026

Reimagining Law and Justice
Through Restorative
Approaches

Information and Application Form



Each year, CIAJ supports research on a fundamental issue related to its annual conference. In 2026, the **\$1,000** Christine Huglo Robertson Essay Prize for Law Students will focus on the theme of “[Reimagining Law and Justice Through Restorative Approaches](#),” echoing the theme of our 50th annual conference.

Open to **students registered for an undergraduate degree (J.D., LL.B. or B.C.L.) at a Faculty of Law at a Canadian university**, the prize aims to engage law students in the work of CIAJ and to promote scholarship concerning the administration of justice.

About the Annual Conference

This conference will explore the growing movement of restorative approaches in communities and examine how restorative justice principles can reshape our understanding of law and justice. Moving beyond a solely punitive model, restorative approaches invite a re-examination of how harm is addressed, how accountability is understood, and how relationships are repaired. The conference will consider how these principles can transform legal processes across diverse areas of law—criminal, family, administrative, and community-based contexts—and what their broader implications are for access to justice, legitimacy, and public trust in legal institutions.

Central to this conversation is a transformative shift in the role of legal actors. What is required of lawyers, judges, policymakers, and justice system leaders to support meaningful change? What legal reforms, professional practices, and institutional cultures are needed to embed restorative approaches within the legal system?

Through practical sessions, case studies, and applied examples, the conference will examine concrete pathways to justice that integrate restorative values. Participants will engage with real-world experiences, explore tools and models that are already emerging, and reflect on how law can evolve to better respond to harm, strengthen communities, and promote a more humane and responsive justice system.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
[HTTPS://CIAJ-ICAJ.CA/EN/UPCOMING-PROGRAMS/2026-ANNUAL-CONFERENCE/](https://ciaj-icaj.ca/en/upcoming-programs/2026-annual-conference/)

About the Christine Huglo Robertson Essay Prize

The Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ) awards the **Christine-Huglo-Robertson Dissertation Prize for law students (\$1,000)** each year to recognize academic excellence and to encourage critical reflection on a fundamental issue related to the theme of its annual conference. It was created in 2013 to honour CIAJ's Executive Director between 1992 and 2012.

WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?

- Have the excellence of your research work recognized
- Contribute to a national reflection on the evolution of law and justice
- Present your work in the prestigious setting of CIAJ's annual conference
- Increase the visibility of your research among a multidisciplinary audience

HOW TO APPLY

- Application Deadline: **June 30, 2026**
- Fill in the form on the last page and e-mail it to ciaj@ciaj-icaj.ca.
- The recipient will be informed at the end of September and will have to submit his/her report by the end of October 2026.

REGISTRATION FEES

- Free for CIAJ student members.
- CIAJ membership required for non-members (student category at \$15):
<https://ciaj-icaj.ca/en/membership/>

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FORM

The submitted paper

- A dissertation or essay of no more than 7,500 words, including references and appendices
- Written in French or English
- Addressing the theme of the annual conference for the year of application (2026)
- Submitted in an electronic format compatible with Microsoft Word
- The name of the candidate and the name of the university must appear only on the title page
- The paper must be fully anonymized; no information identifying the author may appear elsewhere in the document

An official proof of university enrolment

- Confirming enrolment in an undergraduate law program (J.D., LL.B., B.C.L., or equivalent)
- Issued by a Canadian university

A sworn declaration/statement by the author

- Confirming that the paper was written within the twelve (12) months preceding the application deadline
- Attesting that the paper has not been submitted for another prize or competition
- Attesting that the paper has not been submitted or accepted for publication

<https://ciaj-icaj.ca/fr/prix-et-distinctions/prix-dissertation-chr/>

DECADES OF EXCELLENCE

CIAJ IN 2026

CIAJ marks more than 50 years of leadership in the advancement of the administration of justice in Canada. Since 1974, the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice has brought together legal professionals through its annual events, webinars, and publications, reaching a diverse and influential audience.

OUR MISSION

To promote excellence in justice through knowledge, learning and the exchange of ideas.

COMMUNITY

JUDGES, LAWYERS,
LEGISLATIVE DRAFTERS,
INDIGENOUS ELDERS,
ACADEMICS,
POLICYMAKERS, SOCIAL
WORKERS, LAW
ENFORCEMENT...

Join us and our
members in
shaping the
future of justice.

+2 500



+13 000
Subscribers



Members

PROGRAMS



+2 000

Program participants in judicial and non
judicial activities and conferences



+300

Speakers and
experts



+30

Programs, in person and online
CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIUM, ROUNDTABLES,
SUMMITS, SPECIALIZED SEMINARS,
WEBINARS, CUSTOMIZED TRAINING COURSES...

INDEPENDENT & PAN-CANADIAN



CIAJ is a multidisciplinary, independent,
pan-Canadian, not-for-profit network
across Canada.

IN ALL FAIRNESS

A podcast channel to explore
ways of improving the
administration of justice
in Canada.



57 833

Downloads of
our podcasts.



**#CLAWBIES
2023**

Best Podcast
Award

BLOG



+140

Blog posts and
expert analysis
to contribute
to a more
efficient justice
system.



WWW.CIAJ-ICAJ.CA

Planting the Seeds of Justice

Imagine a space where concrete solutions emerge to address the complex challenges of our Canadian justice system. This is what the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ) is all about.

Founded in 1974, CIAJ's mission is to promote excellence in justice through knowledge, learning and the exchange of ideas.

CIAJ acts as a conduit for change. As a non-profit and independent organization, we bring together individuals and institutions from diverse expertise—judges, lawyers, academics, policymakers, as well as social workers, law enforcement, and engaged citizens— to improve the administration of justice across Canada. Our multidisciplinary approach enables us to break down silos and mobilize diverse perspectives across a wide range of sectors, tackling fundamental issues in depth. Together, we develop concrete solutions tailored to the real needs of Canadians.

We are much more than event organizers: we are a driving force for change. At CIAJ, we build bridges where none existed before, ensuring that the justice system reflects the complexity, diversity, and aspirations of our society.

Join CIAJ: develop yourself, shape a better world, and make a difference.

By becoming a member of CIAJ, you join a community committed to transforming justice. Together, we have the power to influence policy, improve access to justice and build a more equitable system. Join us today to be part of this essential change.

JOIN CIAJ

Contact us

Please contact us for more information about our organization, the benefits of membership and how you can assist us with our mission.

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ABOUT CIAJ

CHRISTINE HUGLO ROBERTSON ESSAY PRIZE

Application Form

Part A: Candidate Information

First name:

Last name:

Address:

City/Province:

Postal code:

Telephone:

Email:

CIAJ Member: ☐ Yes. User code / Member number: _____

☐ No. CIAJ membership (*student* category, \$15) is required to be selected. → <https://ciaj-icaj.ca/en/membership/>

Study program and university: _____

Please include a resume (maximum 2 pages) and an official university enrollment certificate.

Part B: Submitted essay

Essay title:

Summary of the essay:

☐ **Statement:**

I certify that I am enrolled in a Canadian undergraduate law program, that the submitted paper is my original work, written within the twelve (12) months preceding the application deadline, that it has neither been submitted for another prize or competition nor submitted or accepted for publication, and that it complies with the requirements of the CHR Essay Prize as well as the theme of the current CIAJ annual conference.

Date:

Signature:

Send the completed application and all related documents to ciaj@ciaj-icaj.ca.