



News Release

Former Bâtonnier of Québec becomes Federation President for 2021-2022

**For Immediate Release
November 15, 2021**

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is pleased to announce that Bâtonnier Nicolas Plourde, Ad.E. of Montreal has been elected President for 2021 – 2022. He was nominated as a member of the Federation Council by the Barreau du Québec in 2018, after previously serving as a Council member in 2013-2014.

He is a partner in the Montréal boutique law firm Sarrazin Plourde, and is an accomplished litigator with more than 25 years of experience in civil and commercial litigation.

Me Plourde earned his law degree from the Université de Montréal in 1993, and was admitted to the Québec Bar the same year. In 1997 he became President of the Young Bar Association of Montréal (YBAM), an organization representing lawyers in the greater Montreal area with ten years experience or less. In 2008, he served as a founding administrator and Treasurer of Pro Bono Québec, an organization offering free legal services in that province.

Me Plourde also has extensive experience in the administrative and regulatory aspects of the legal profession. From 2008-2010, he chaired the Barreau's Legal Aid Committee and in 2010, was appointed Chair of the Barreau's Governance and Ethics Committee. In 2009 he was elected Bâtonnier of the Barreau de Montréal, and in 2012 was elected Bâtonnier of the Barreau du Québec.

Me Plourde is also involved in his community. He was President of the Accueil Bonneau Foundation, an organization that assists homeless people and is currently a board member of Windmill Microlending, which offers microloans to help skilled immigrants and refugees continue their careers in Canada.

"Despite the challenges created by the ongoing pandemic, the Federation continues to forge ahead with its strategic priorities," Me Plourde says. "We will continue our focus on the big issues that lend themselves well to national collaboration and consistency such as the competence of members of the legal profession, whether their pathway to practice is via Canadian law schools or the NCA, the mental health and well-being of the profession, reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples, as well as enlisting the help of the legal profession in the fight against money laundering by ensuring that law societies are equipped with robust rules and that the profession is informed about how to comply with them".

He added, "These are just some of the national initiatives that the Federation is known for. Among them, I also count CanLII, the Model Code of Professional Conduct, National Discipline Standards, as well as the National Criminal Law Program and the National Family Law Program." He also expressed his hope for once again bringing the leaders of Canada's law societies together in person as soon as it is possible to do so. "Every personal interaction is ultimately a source of understanding of what we have in common and the potential benefits of working together through the Federation", Me Plourde says.

The Federation is the national coordinating body of Canada's 14 law societies, which are mandated by provincial and territorial statutes to regulate the country's 126,400 lawyers, Quebec's 3,800 notaries and Ontario's 10,000 licensed paralegals in the public interest.

News Release (page 2)

The Federation speaks out on issues critical to safeguarding the public's right to an independent legal profession, the protection of solicitor-client privilege and other issues relating to the administration of justice and the rule of law. For more information on the Federation and its initiatives, please visit our web site at www.flsc.ca

For more information about this release, or to acquire a high resolution photograph of the Federation President, please contact:

Bob Linney
Director of Communications and Information Technology
Federation of Law Societies of Canada
Tel.: 613.783.7399
blinney@flsc.ca