

Oratory Competition

Of the Young Bar of Montreal

Guidelines

STEMMING FROM A LONG EUROPEAN TRADITION, THE YOUNG BAR OF MONTREAL ORATORY COMPETITION AIMS AT HIGHLIGHTING THE QUALITIES OF ELOQUENCE, RHETORIC AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF EACH CANDIDATE. WIT AND HUMOR ARE ENCOURAGED AND “COURT ROOM DRAMA” IS EXPECTED!

NATURE OF THE COMPETITION

The YBM Oratory Competition is a speech competition aimed at highlighting the best of the French and English pleaders of the Young Bar of Montreal. The point of the competition is to present performances that equally combine fantastical and serious elements. A legal component is not necessary, nor must it dominate the speeches. The best material will be given preference over the most factual.

The presentation will adopt the general form of legal pleading. They may not resemble stand-up comedy, singing, miming, etc.

The English and French participants will be evaluated separately but they will plead in the same type of environment and will be evaluated by the same jury.

ELIMINATION ROUND

The elimination round will take the form of a training workshop. The YBM will designate an English and a French topic.

The participants will begin by presenting a first recitation of their speeches. They will have five (5) minutes to present their material, then the jury will ask them a single question, no more, no less- which will lead to a one minute developmental response from the participant. Following this first round, the members of the jury will offer a personalized critique to each participant, aimed at providing them with feedback and advice on how to improve their pleading techniques. The participants will then present their speeches again, having integrated the comments of the jury into the second recitation.

The judges, in their discretion, will apply one sole criteria of evaluation, general impression. They will attribute points to the best pleaders in English and in French in reverse order. First place will be worth 4 points, second place worth 3, etc. The jury will add up the points allotted by each judge and announce the four best French pleaders and four best English pleaders. In the case of a tie, the president of the jury will choose the winner. The results of the semi-finals will be announced in alphabetical order, without referencing the points-based order.

The remaining participants following the elimination round undertake to participate in the Finals.

JURY

The jury is composed of three judges: two eminent litigators, an Anglophone and a Francophone and a representative of the Young Bar of Montreal Board of directors.

No dress code will be enforced. The use of accessories (signs, other objects, etc.) is prohibited.

2022 TOPICS

- Is orange juice named after the fruit or the color?
- Are hotdogs sandwiches?
- Should you bite or lick your ice cream?

FINALE

The finale will take the form of an oratory competition and is open to the public. The YBM will choose one French and one English subject which will be announced to the successful pleaders at the elimination round.

Each pleader will have **eight (8) minutes** to present their speech. The jury will then proceed to ask them developmental questions to which they will respond, for a total duration of **two (2) minutes**.

The French winner will be named representative of the Young Bar of Montreal in the “Prix Paris-Montréal de la Francophonie” which will take place in Montreal in September, at the Opening of the Courts Ceremonies. The English winner will be named representative of the Young Bar of Montreal in the International Debate Championship, which takes place in Montreal each September at the Opening of the Courts Ceremonies. Both competitions will be held in front of an audience of international guests.

JURY

The jury is composed of seven members, one who is a member of the magisterial function, one representative of the YBM Board of directors, one representative from the Bar of Montreal and finally one representative of the English legal community.

All pleaders must wear a gown. The use of accessories (signs or other objects) is prohibited.

EVALUATION

The judges will apply the following evaluation criteria:

- 1- Mastery of language
- 2- Originality
- 3- Humor
- 4- General culture
- 5- General impression (level of comfort, personality, ease of communication, etc.)

The jury will attribute points to the best pleaders in reverse order. In the final, the judge will attribute three (3) points to first place and two (2) points to second place. The jury will then add up all the points attributed by each judge and nominate the two (2) best French and two (2) best English pleaders. In the case of a tie, the president of the jury will decide the winner. The results will be announced in reverse order of points received (second, then first).

WINNING PRIZE ORATORY COMPETITION

The winning French Orator will have the privilege of representing the Quebec Bar at the “concours international d’éloquence de la Francophonie” organized by the “Conférence Internationale des Barreaux de tradition juridique commune (CIB)”, which takes place in Africa every year in December. Please take note that in past competitions, all travel and accommodation fees were paid for by the CIB.

The winning English Orator will have the privilege of representing the Young Bar of Montreal at the International Oratory Competition of the American Bar Association- Young Lawyers Division, which has generally been held every year in May, in the United States. Please take note that the Young Bar of Montreal will assume the cost of the plane tickets and price for one night of hotel accommodation for this participant.

OBJECTIVES

- Promote young, talented and eloquent lawyers to the Montreal legal community;
- Create networking opportunities within the Montreal legal community which will be invited to attend the competition;
- Designate a Montreal representative for the International Debate Championship, which will take place during the opening of the judicial ceremonies organized by the YBM in September;
- Designate a Quebec representative to compete at the American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division's (ABA-YLD) International Oratory Competition.

ADMISSIBILITY

All members of the Young Bar of Montreal that have been sworn in between May 1st, 2012 and June 11th, 2022. The admissible participants must thus have ten (10) years of practice or less and be members of the Montreal section of the Quebec Bar.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Candidates must submit their registration form by May 11th 2022 by filling the form on the following page: <http://ajbm.qc.ca/activites/ronde-elimatoire-prix-de-lorateurenglish-oratory-competition>