

PLUS EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Nominee Details:

Name: Nicole McAuley

Job Title: Associate

Company: FCL LLP

LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicole-mcauley-b5656045/>

From the Nominator:

How long have you known the nominee? And in what capacity?

I have known Nicole for several years, primarily through PLUS Canada events. In 2019, I joined the law firm Nicole works for and we have been working together since that time.

Describe ways in which the nominee has demonstrated a commitment to the industry via activities in their company, involvement with professional organizations such as PLUS, or other extracurricular activities related to PL.

Nicole is a lawyer with FCL LLP, a specialty insurance boutique firm in Toronto, Ontario. She has been with FCL LLP for almost 11 years. Nicole is a litigator and coverage counsel whose practice focuses on professional liability, specifically related to Errors and Omissions and Directors' and Officers' liability policies. In addition to her work with FCL, Nicole has demonstrated a sustained commitment to the success of PLUS Canada for the better part of a decade. She became a member of PLUS Canada's Toronto subcommittee in 2015, joining PLUS Canada's Steering Committee in 2018 (initially serving as Secretary). In 2020, Nicole was elected as the Vice-Chair of PLUS Canada. In 2021, Nicole became the National Chair of PLUS Canada for a two-year term. During her national chairmanship, she has also continued to serve as Chair of the Toronto subcommittee. Nicole's stewardship of PLUS Canada has coincided with the global pandemic. Her commitment to serving PLUS's Canadian membership and keeping the organization going through lockdowns, legal restrictions on gatherings, and massive shifts in the way insurance professionals work and interact with each other has been awe-inspiring. She is a credit not only to PLUS Canada, but to the entire PLUS mission. As you know, PLUS Canada is comprised of five separate subcommittees located in Vancouver, Alberta, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. The Chair of the Steering Committee acts as a liaison between these five subcommittees and PLUS's head office. The Chair of PLUS Canada oversees the educational content, events, budgeting, scheduling, and continuity of the five subcommittees.

How has this person already uniquely contributed to the PL industry?

During her tenure with PLUS Canada, Nicole has moderated and presented at various educational events hosted by the Toronto subcommittee. She has also taken the lead in planning and executing numerous educational and social events for the Toronto subcommittee. In 2018, Nicole co-chaired a half-day educational event in Toronto that had the highest attendance of all Canadian educational events to date. Nicole and her co-chair created the concept of "D&O North," which builds off the momentum of the annual PLUS D&O conference in New York, while also featuring Canada-specific content. Nicole co-chaired the second annual D&O North with two panels of industry leaders in 2019. Following a pandemic-induced hiatus, the program returned in June 2022 under Nicole's leadership. The event featured multiple educational panels of Canadian industry leaders, followed by a cocktail party to allow for members to reconnect after two years in a mostly work-from-home environment. It was hugely successful with roughly 100 in-person attendees. In 2019, Nicole successfully obtained funding from the PLUS

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Foundation to host a Women's Leadership Network event in Toronto. This was the first WLN event hosted in Canada. It was a great success, reflecting an obvious desire to find ways in which our industry can better serve female professionals. Nicole was again granted funding for this event in 2020 and 2021, but the event "went online" due to the pandemic. The 2021 event was very successful, focusing on balancing professionals' work and home lives, as the concept of what it means to work in the Professional Liability industry continues to evolve. Remarkably, the program attracted attendees from across North America, not just Canada. In 2022, under Nicole's leadership, PLUS Canada returned with another in-person WLN event, held in Montreal with a panel of brilliant female leaders from the PL community.

Why do you consider this person to be an emerging leader in the PL industry?

I consider Nicole to be an emerging leader because she is dynamic and always prepared to work to address the needs of those around her – whether that be a new strategy in a difficult litigation matter, a new approach to engage PLUS Canada members, or altering the way in which we interact with students and junior associates to ensure inclusive mentorship. Through her leadership of PLUS Canada, Nicole's focus has been on providing connection, value and educational content to members and sponsors across Canada. As we "return to normal," it has never been more important to have in-person events to enable Canada's professional liability community to connect. Many Canadian PLUS members have been hesitant to attend events outside of Canada, especially with certain border restrictions. PLUS Canada's in-person and online events are more important than ever in keeping Canadian members engaged with the PLUS community. Nicole and her committees have ensured that this engagement has continued through the pandemic. Nicole's commitment to the Canadian chapter has been steadfast at a time when everyone is working more, with less "spare" time than ever. In addition to her work with PLUS, Nicole continues to run a busy litigation practice. She is also the mother of two children under the age of three. She is an avid runner and member of the Toronto running community. She somehow balances of these roles with her commitment to her clients, our firm, and her mentorship of junior associates and students.

Nominator's Details:

Name: Chris McKibbin

Job Title: Partner

Company: FCL LLP