



**News Release**

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**NTC Selection Committee announces 2011 winner of Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award**

***Rosanna M. Saccomani, Q.C.***

**Edmonton** – The Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award Selection Committee is pleased to announce Rosanna M. Saccomani, Q.C. as recipient of the 2011 Award.

Rosanna joined the law firm of Biamonte Cairo & Shortreed LLP in 1984. Her practice emphasis is general civil litigation, fatal accident/personal injury claims, corporate–commercial litigation, and previously, family and criminal law. She has successfully handled several legally complex cases in each of these fields, which have established legal precedent in the Alberta jurisdiction and which have received local and national media attention.



Rosanna has received many honours and awards, including her 2010 appointment as Queens' Counsel, an honorary title conferred by the Province of Alberta to recognize "outstanding expertise, work and contribution in a lawyer's public life"; the Alberta Centennial Medal of Honour for "outstanding community service" in 2005; and the 2000 Woman of the Year, an award given by the Edmonton Business and Professional Women's Association for "outstanding leadership, initiative and community service by a woman in the work force."

*"She has given much of herself not only to her profession but also her family, her faith as well as the community at large. She has an outstanding reputation in her profession and is recognized as a person of integrity, industry and service,"* said the Hon. Allan H. Wachowich, Q.C., one of the nominators for this year's winner. *"She has adopted a principled stand in Right to Life issues and as a skilled lawyer she defended causes which came before the court, which was consistent with her faith."* Rosanna has been an active member of the St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Guild, and each year she is the main organizer of the Guild's "Red Mass" and banquet. She was also the main organizer of an ecumenical and inter-religious service held in McDougall United Church celebrating the centenary of the Judiciary in the Province of Alberta.

Rosanna served on the Steering Committee to organize the celebration of the centenary of the Franciscan Friars in Western Canada in 2008.

*"In whatever Catholic parish of which she is a member, Rosanna does whatever she can to contribute to the parish life – in committees, special projects etc."* said Fr. Don H. MacDonald, OFM, a professor at Newman. *"Rosanna is indeed worthy of receiving the Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award and I wholeheartedly recommend her for this honour."*



Throughout her career, Rosanna has made it her practice to take on files that promote her strong Christian faith. Some of her work includes the passage of a private bill which allowed for the retroactive motor vehicle exception to the general rule of maternal tort immunity for prenatal wrongful conduct. She also argued for injunctive relief on behalf of a father to prevent the termination of a planned pregnancy. Although the action was unsuccessful, it was the first in Canada to address this issue. Rosanna has never shied away from advocating on behalf of any party, regardless of whether the positions advocated were popular but always for the betterment of humanity.

She is also a part-time Presiding Justice of the Peace and in this capacity conducts judicial interim release hearings, authorizes child apprehensions and grants emergency protection orders. *“She takes this opportunity to encourage people to be better individuals, to be accountable to themselves, to each other and to their families. She espouses Christian values in her communications and decisions.”* said nominator Pam Miller, Development Director for Kids Kottage Foundation. *“Rosanna has spent many years of her life contributing to fostering a culture that demonstrates Christian values. Rosanna was Co-founder of Kids Kottage which opened its doors in May 1995 to prevent child abuse and neglect and to support families in need. Since then, approximately 25,000 children have stayed at the Kottage. Rosanna has been a Board Director since 1990 and served as Chair from 1997 to 2002.*

The award is named for Kevin Carr, who in 1993 became the first layperson to be appointed president of Newman Theological College. It recognizes individuals whose outstanding Christian leadership reflects the values of the college and the qualities that Carr cherished and exhibited in his work as president.

**Previous Award Recipients:**

- 2010 – Ben Hochhausen
- 2009 – Sr. Annata Brockman
- 2008 – Don Zinyk
- 2007 – Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.
- 2006 – Tim Spelliscy
- 2005 – Ernest Chauvet
- 2004 – Hon. Jean Forest