



INSTITUT DES JURISTES D'ENTREPRISE
INSTITUUT VOOR BEDRIJFSJURISTEN



Press Release

Lawyers and legal practitioners celebrate their 'Oscars'

**Monday 6th February 19.00 – Théâtre Le Plaza – Bd Adolphe Max
118 – 1000 Brussels**

A veritable **revolution** has taken place in a sector previously considered intensely conservative. The **first ever** ceremony of the 'BELGIAN LEGAL AWARDS' took place on the 6th February and gathered together in excess of 450 people. Regrettably a further 100 applications to attend the ceremony had to be rejected.

Organised under the patronage of the Minister for Justice; Laurette **Onkelinx**, and in partnership with, most notably, the 'Federation of Belgian Enterprises', the 'Institute of in-house Lawyers' and the 'Federation of the Notary Profession', the objective of these 'Oscars of Law' is to expose and acknowledge the most outstanding practitioners of law in the country.

Lawyers and in-house practitioners were awarded prizes in numerous categories.

A panel of judges consisting of more than **100 personalities** meticulously selected from the worlds of economics, law and the academics was gathered together.

Laurent Marlière, the President of the Legal Awards, acknowledged "*it is important to reward the work, often carried out behind the scenes, by lawyers who are the indispensable pillars to the proper functioning of society and the economy. The law bears considerable importance to the daily lives of people and businesses. Let's see who is truly behind the legal dimension!*"

The President further underlined the importance of emphasising to the general public that a lawyer is not exclusively a tool for legal action, but also an advisor. Companies have become the most frequent customers for law firms, with the economy to an ever-increasing extent governed by large deals; mergers, relocations and stock market flotations, which are continuously placing in-house practitioners and lawyers on the front-line.

Enclosed is the list of nominees and award winners.

Further information is available at www.legal-awards.be

Alternatively contact: Laurent Marlière: 0032475/42.21.49

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