

Katz Family

Seven years have passed since the passing of my dear husband and our father Mordechai David Katz. Mordechai knew how to combine his broad vision as a teacher and learned Jew with the world of business and industry. When he was only twenty years old, he began his path in education as director of the Jewish school in the city of Monterey. Subsequently and simultaneously he became an industrialist and leading businessman who knew how to integrate between the spiritual and physical world. We established the prize in 1975 in memory of Mordechai's dear mother. Mordechai's parents in their lifetime nurtured in us the connection between Jewish law and modern developments, and the importance of practically applying Jewish law.

For over forty years we have had the privilege and pleasure of giving the prize to individuals and institutions who fulfill the legacy of my late husband's parents, me personally and our family in Mexico, the USA and Israel.

This year it is our privilege to present the prize to two very deserving individuals and two institutions: Professor Aviad HaCohen - one of the world's leading scholars of Jewish civil law; Dr. Yochai Makbili, who has been disseminating the Rambam's writings and making them accessible to the public; the Talmudic Encyclopedia which summarizes the legal part of the Oral Torah; and the Barkai association, which trains community rabbis and connects communities.

This year for the first time we are giving a Lifetime Achievement Prize. This prize will be awarded to Rabbi Shmuel Yaniv for disseminating Torah.

We would like to thank the members of the prize committee, the Chairman Professor Menahem Ben Sasson, and the other members, Dayan Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski and Rabbi Haim Sabato, the head of the Birkat Moshe Hesder yeshiva in Ma'ale Adumim, for their efforts and commendable selection that led to the granting of these awards on this distinguished evening.

May the memory of the head of our family be a blessing,

Adina Katz and the family