
Prof. Menahem Ben Sasson

The Katz Prize for the Application of Jewish Law in Modern Life was founded in 1975 by the late Mordechai David (Marcos) Katz, together with his wife, Adina, in memory of his mother Golda Katz.

The purpose of the prize is to encourage the pragmatic application of Jewish law to modern, dynamic life. The task of choosing winners this year from among all the individuals and institutions that submitted their nominations was not easy. Many of the candidates were worthy of recognition since each one in his own way has been implementing Jewish law in our lives.

The distinguished members of the prize committee and I chose two 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 is a magnum opus summarizing the legal part of the Oral Torah, and the Barkai Association, which trains community rabbis and connects communities.

This year an award for Lifetime Achievement will also be awarded to Rabbi Shmuel Yaniv for his work in disseminating Torah.

We congratulate all the award winners and wish them many more blessed years of creativity and vigorous activity in disseminating Torah, and leading initiatives that will impact our day-to-day life.

I thank my respected colleagues who are members of the prize committee: the author, Rabbi Haim Sabato and Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski, for carrying out the prize selections judiciously and conscientiously. Our efforts were facilitated by the director of the prize program, Ms. Meirav Catriel Shtarker, who professionally, diligently and graciously invested much effort to manage the Katz Prize Legacy.

Dear Ms. Adina Katz and the revered Katz family, thank you for continuing this important enterprise which fulfills the legacy of the award's founder, the late Mordechai David (Marcos) Katz.

Menahem ben Sasson
Chairman, Katz Prize Committee