

For Immediate Release

Loly Rico Announced as the 2017 Spirit of Barbra Schlifer Award Recipient *Award ceremony to take place during the Annual Tribute fundraising event*

Toronto, Tuesday, May 9, 2017 – The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic is proud to announce Loly Rico as the 2017 Spirit of Barbra Schlifer Award recipient. Loly is the co-director and founder of FCJ Refugee Centre and an undisputed leader for the rights of refugee women facing violence. The Award, sponsored by Tory’s LLP, is given annually to a woman whose work is dedicated to improving the lives of women experiencing violence.

“We are overjoyed with the nomination of Loly for the Spirit of Barbra Schlifer Award,” says Amanda Dale, the Clinic’s Executive Director. “Loly’s work demonstrates her deep solidarity with those whose path she has also walked. She works tirelessly to find practical solutions to meet the daily survival needs of uprooted women, many of whom are survivors of violence and trafficking.”

Loly will receive the Award on June 8, at the Annual Tribute, the largest fundraising event for the Barbra Schlifer Clinic. The Tribute event, hosted by Blakes LLP, will once again feature Marivel Taruc, news co-host of CBC Toronto, as the evening’s master of ceremonies.

“The event is a beacon to those wanting to inspire change,” says Dale. “For many, the Annual Tribute represents a community coming together to honour the more than 3,800 women who call on the Clinic each year because their lives have been interrupted by violence, and the dedicated women who work to bring safety, compassion, and freedom to the lives of these women”.

The Annual Tribute will take place on Thursday, June 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Daniels Spectrum, located at 585 Dundas Street East. To purchase tickets, please call (416) 323-9149 or go to www.schliferclinic.com/tribute



About Loly Rico

Loly immigrated to Canada with her husband and their children to escape political repression in El Salvador in 1990. Through her experience as a refugee, she became acutely aware of the obstacles encountered by refugees and was determined to assist other refugee women escaping violence.

In 1991, Loly and her husband, Francisco Rico-Martinez, founded the FCJ Refugee Centre, which helps uprooted people overcome the challenges of rebuilding their lives in Canadian society. With an open-door approach, the Centre offers an integrated model of refugee protection, settlement services, and education, including shelter for women and their children in Toronto.

Most recently, Loly played a significant role in building the Toronto Counter Human Trafficking Network. Under her leadership, the Network works closely with the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario to further the

anti-trafficking strategy adopted by both governments. Loly is also the President of the Canadian Council for Refugees, and a past President of the Ontario Coalition of Agencies Serving Immigrants.

Loly's dedication to human rights and social justice is recognized through her numerous awards. In 2004, she received the Constance E. Hamilton Award for her unflinching contribution to women's rights. She is also the recipient of the YMCA Peace Medallion, the Canadian Centre for the Victims of Torture's Trevor Bartram Award, and the Community Leadership Award from the Salvadorian Canadian Association of Toronto.

About Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic is a specialized clinic for women experiencing violence, established in the memory of Barbra Schlifer – an idealistic young lawyer whose life was cut short by violence on the night of her call to the bar of Ontario on April 11, 1980. In her memory, the Clinic is a multi-disciplinary, front-line service provider that assists nearly 4,000 women a year to build lives free from violence through counselling, legal representation, and language interpretation. Since it was founded in 1985, the Clinic has assisted more than 60,000 women.

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For more information, or to arrange an interview with Amanda Dale, please contact:

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