



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
Alberta Branch

Law Society of Alberta
Canadian Bar Association - Alberta



SERVING
the PUBLIC
INTEREST

Celebrating Excellence

Program

January 29, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
The Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta

Lunch

11:30 a.m.

Opening Remarks

12:30 p.m.

Jeremiah Kowalchuk, Vice President, Canadian Bar Association - Alberta Branch

Distinguished Service Awards Presentations

12:40 p.m.

James T. Eamon, QC, President, Law Society Alberta
Wayne Barkauskas, President, Canadian Bar Association - Alberta Branch



Professor Mitchell McInnes is considered one of Canada's most influential and prolific private law scholars. For over 20 years, he has dedicated much of his career to enhancing scholarship in all major areas of private law.

Professor McInnes obtained his BA and LLB from the University of Alberta before completing his LLM and PhD from the University of Cambridge. Before joining the University of Alberta Faculty of Law in 2005, Professor McInnes taught at the University of Western Ontario, the University of Melbourne, and Deakin University in Australia. He clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada and served as a Legal Research Officer with the Alberta Court of Appeal.

He has since published over one hundred articles, comments and reviews in many of the world's leading law reviews, including the *Law Quarterly Review*, the *Cambridge Law Journal* and the *Canadian Bar Review*.

Professor McInnes' scholarship has been referenced by law schools, practitioners and the courts. He is commended as an impressive presenter and is recognized internationally as a leading expert in his field.

As noted in all of Professor McInnes' letters of support, the breadth of his scholarship is most impressive. "Remarkably, his scholarship has covered virtually all major areas of private law," wrote Chris Sprysak, nominator. Professor McInnes has written or co-written several editions of leading casebooks. One of his most recent publications, *The Canadian Law of Unjust Enrichment and Restitution*, is the first Canadian text to have ever been reviewed in the *Law Quarterly Review*. Former colleague, Stephen Pitel, wrote that the text is "a comprehensive, authoritative text that appears destined, over the coming years, to become the dominant Canadian reference for the field."

In addition to his legal scholarship, Professor McInnes is a dedicated educator and has been recognized for his excellence in teaching. He has been, and continues to be, a strong mentor and role model for many young scholars.



Christine Pratt's commitment to the provision and promotion of pro bono services is exemplified in her "personal passion and drive" for the cause, expressed Marie Gordon, QC in a letter of support.

Ms. Pratt received her LLB from the University of Alberta in 1992 and was called to the Bar in 1993. She articulated at Field Law and then joined McGregor Stillman for five years before returning to Field in 1998.

Ms. Pratt has volunteered and held leadership positions with the Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC) since 2003. She continues to volunteer at the ECLC's evening civil clinic. Through her work with the ECLC, Ms. Pratt was instrumental in developing Field's free lunch-time notarial clinic for low income clients. She also serves as the program liaison for her firm's participation in the Pathways to Housing program, which assists high-risk, homeless people suffering from mental illness by offering them a place to live, counselling and justice clinics.

A mentor to many in her community, Ms. Pratt is a sessional lecturer at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law and teaches a Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education Development course. Marie Gordon wrote that Ms. Pratt "has been a model for women in the community of ascending to the role of partner in a highly respected law firm, being an active and engaged mother, as well as somehow finding the time to contribute her services to the pro bono cause."

In recognition of Ms. Pratt's commitment to pro bono services, Pro Bono Law Alberta awarded her the Pro Bono Leader in the Community Award in 2011 and she was also the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the ECLC in 2013.

Nominator, Derek Cranna, summed up Ms. Pratt's dedication by writing, "Ms. Pratt has made a tangible and lasting difference in the Edmonton community with her commitment to pro bono work."



MICHELLE C. CHRISTOPHER

Service to the Community

Throughout her many years of practice, Michelle C. Christopher has worked hard to assist low income and vulnerable Albertans in her community.

She received her BA from the University of Calgary, her LLB from Dalhousie University and her LLM from Osgoode Hall. Ms. Christopher has also completed extensive training in negotiation, mediation and dispute resolution pedagogy through Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation and Program of Instruction for Lawyers.

As a lawyer and legal educator, Ms. Christopher has gone above and beyond. She has served for many years as a Dispute Resolution Officer with the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, a mediator with Family Settlement Services, a mediator with the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta's Civil Mediation Program, and as a legal representative for children and youth in both Provincial Court and the Court of Queen's Bench. Ms. Christopher previously practised in the areas of family and youth criminal law. She is currently the Executive Director of Student Legal Assistance, a pro bono

clinic that assists vulnerable Albertans who otherwise have limited access to justice.

Ms. Christopher is committed to legal education, particularly in the clinical context. She has served as an instructor with the Legal Education Society of Alberta and the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education Development since 1996. A role model and mentor to many, she is an adjunct professor at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law. In a letter of support, the Honourable Judge S.E. Lipton wrote, "students continue to receive excellent guidance on both the law and courtroom demeanor from Ms. Christopher."

Ms. Christopher is also an active volunteer in her community. Amongst her extensive board and committee experience, she currently serves as the Treasurer and an Executive Member of the Association of Canadian Clinical Legal Education and as a member of the Board of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family. She is also involved in a number of current law reform initiatives. She is passionate about access to justice and making a difference, and she is proud to be a member of the Law Society of Alberta.

As Associate Chief Justice John D. Rooke expressed, "Ms. Christopher has made, and continues to make, an effective contribution to the role of law in society."



Douglas G. Moe, QC, has devoted much of his 30 year career to promoting volunteerism, benevolence and kindness to those around him. His leadership, generosity and wealth of experience has helped establish and advance access to justice initiatives in Alberta.

Mr. Moe received his LLB in 1984, was called to the Alberta Bar in 1986, and received his Queen's Counsel designation in 2005. Throughout his years of practice, he has "led by example by encouraging both his own associates and other lawyers to donate their time, expertise, resources and a proper attitude to helping those in need," wrote nominator, Lonny Balbi, QC.

Mr. Moe's pro bono activity is extensive. Most notably, he was instrumental in the creation of the Dispute Resolution Officer (DRO) Project, which provides family law litigants with a form of dispute resolution at the earliest stages of litigation. He is still actively involved with the DRO and continues to refuse compensation.

An avid speaker and panelist, Mr. Moe has presented to the Legal Education Society of Alberta, the Canadian Bar Association and the University of Calgary. He has also organized and presented at a number of conferences across the country and served on several committees at the provincial and national levels. Some of Mr. Moe's written materials remain current and continue to be used by lawyers years later.

Mr. Moe is known for his client-centered, problem-solving approach on family law matters. He "often assists self-represented litigants and refuses to turn his back on individuals who are in need of, but unable to afford, legal advice and assistance. Instead of simply providing the telephone number for Legal Aid or Calgary Legal Guidance, Mr. Moe will speak with individuals for hours on the phone or meet with them in person," wrote Blair Laven, in a letter of support.

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Moe is a tireless volunteer in his community. He spent 11 years on the board of the Children's Cottage Society including three years as President. He previously volunteered with the Kiwanis Club and various other organizations and boards.

As the Honourable Judge Victor T. Tousignant wrote, "Mr. Moe's contribution to the legal profession has been prodigious, both in his writings and his actions. He is exceedingly generous with both his time and his talent."

The Distinguished Service Awards celebrate excellence in the legal profession.

Jointly awarded by the Law Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association - Alberta Branch, these prestigious awards recognize the many outstanding contributions Alberta lawyers make to legal scholarship, pro bono legal service to the community and to the profession.