Past Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Service to the Profession

Sir Francis Price, QC
Distinguished Service to the Community

Catherine A. Brown
Distinguished Service in Legal Scholarship

J. Patrick Peacock, QC
Distinguished Service to the Profession

Suzanne M. Alexander-Smith
Distinguished Service in Pro Bono Legal Service

January 28, 2011
Fairmont Hotel Macdonald
Edmonton, Alberta
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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In 2000, a special award recognizing service to the community, the legal profession and in legal scholarship was awarded to Hon. Chief Justice W. Kenneth Moore, QC.
Catherine A. Brown  
*Service in Legal Scholarship*

Professor Catherine Brown has made a prodigious contribution to legal scholarship as one of the few academic experts in the area of trade and tax issues, as well as her work in the areas of estate planning, trusts, corporate reorganizations and business planning. A member of the Law Society of Alberta since 1987, her teaching career spans 30 years from when she was first made assistant professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary in 1981. Since then, she has become a full professor in the faculty and has had a profound impact in her respective areas of expertise, including roles with the Canadian Tax Foundation (board of governors 2005-08) and as the present director of the Legal Education Society of Alberta. She is also the founder and former executive director of the New Venture Legal Clinic, an organization that has helped more than 10,000 clients solve a range of tax and business challenges under the supervision of law students. Professor Brown is also on the board of directors of the Centre for New Venture Development at the U of C. The tax law profession has benefited greatly from her hard work and contributions to legal scholarship throughout her esteemed legal and academic career.

Sir Francis Price, QC  
*Service to the Profession*

Sir Francis Price, QC, is known to everyone in the legal community as a consummate and knowledgeable expert in foreclosure, arbitration, the Rules of Court and other matters of law. His extensive involvement in presentations for LESA, for Canadian Bar sections and many others is only partly reflected in his curriculum vitae. Becoming a civil litigation lawyer after joining the firm Reynolds, Mirth, Richards and Farmer LLP in 1975, he has also served in numerous roles including as a Law Society of Alberta Bencher (1990-94). While he stands at the top of the profession in education, teaching and practice areas, his dedication to the community has been a cornerstone of his entire career, since he was admitted to the Alberta Bar in 1976 and later appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1992. Within the Edmonton community as a whole, he is well known for his philanthropic and volunteer activities. It is his work in the community that has earned him additional accolades, both from the profession and the community at large. He has been a hands-on contributor in the arts community making things happen. His community service includes work with the Edmonton Opera Association (chair of the board 2006-08; director 2002-09), the Edmonton Opera Chorus (member 1988-present), Edmonton’s Food Bank and many other community-based associations.

Suzanne M. Alexander-Smith  
*Service in Pro Bono Legal Service*

As a volunteer lawyer and inaugural chair of the Central Alberta Legal Clinic Foundation (CALCF) and board member since 2004, Suzanne Alexander-Smith is the type of professional who does not hesitate to roll up her sleeves to improve access to justice for Albertans and get the job done. The Fishes and Loaves pro bono legal project, where lawyers serve food and provide legal advice to the needy, was incorporated into CALCF as a result of her ongoing efforts to improve access to justice for all.

Her work with Pro Bono Law Alberta (2007-present) adds to a long list of contributions to the community through her pro bono legal service, including positions with Public Legal Education Network of Alberta, Red Deer Public School Division, Central Alberta Bar Association and numerous positions on community organizations in Red Deer. She is currently a litigation associate with the law firm Chapman Riebeek LLP and has been a member of the Law Society of Alberta since 1998. Her contributions have been far-reaching since the completion of her law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1993. Suzanne Alexander-Smith is passionate about the practice of law, is an exceptional representative of the legal community and is a tireless champion for the disadvantaged and their right to access justice.

J. Patrick Peacock, QC  
*Service to the Community*

Generations of lawyers have benefited greatly by the leadership shown by J. Patrick Peacock, QC, over more than 40 years and his unwavering commitment to self-governance of the legal profession. He has served tirelessly at virtually every level of the Calgary Bar and Canadian Bar Associations, culminating in his roles as Calgary Bar president in 1978 and national CBA president in 1988-89. He has also served on committees and acted as an instructor and panel member for the Law Society of Alberta, University of Calgary and Institute of Chartered Accountants.

After earning his law degree with distinction in 1967 from the University of Alberta, he was admitted to the Bar in 1968 and appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1984. Patrick Peacock is a gifted lawyer with an overriding sense of honour and fair play. As a litigator, Patrick Peacock has conducted trials and appeals at all levels of the courts in Canada. He has acted as an ambassador for the Canadian legal profession at meetings and conferences around the world, leaving a legacy of mentoring junior lawyers to the betterment of the profession. In summary, the managing partner at Peacock, Linder & Halt LLP in Calgary is a fine role model with a long track record of service and dedication to the profession.

Thank you to all nominators for supporting the Distinguished Service Award program.