

TWO NEW JUDGES APPOINTED TO THE ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE

NEWS

December 12, 2008

The province has appointed two judges to the Ontario Court of Justice, effective December 24, 2008.

Madam Justice Rebecca Jane Rutherford was called to the Bar in 1987. Since then, she has served as duty counsel with the Ontario Legal Aid Plan and practised as a sole practitioner specializing in criminal law. She has also worked periodically as an assistant Crown attorney in Toronto. She was a member of the Criminal Lawyers' Association and was its representative on the organizational committee dealing with the Aboriginal Persons Court at Old City Hall in Toronto. She was also the Defence Bar representative on the Community Justice Steering Committee at College Park Courthouse. Madam Justice Rutherford taught advocacy and criminal procedure for the Bar Admission Course. As an active member of her community, she serves on the board of directors for the St. Leonard's Society of Toronto, an organization that works to keep communities safe through alternative justice programs and community outreach. Chief Justice Annemarie E. Bonkalo has assigned Justice Rutherford to preside in Toronto.

Madam Justice Kelly Pamela Wright was called to the Bar in 1996. Since then, she has been an assistant Crown attorney in both Scarborough and Newmarket, focusing on large-scale prosecutions. In addition, Madam Justice Wright was a member of the Sexual Assault Protocol Committee, where she helped to develop and implement a sexual assault protocol for York Region. As a founding member of the York Regional Bench and Bar Education Committee, she organized seminars for the legal community throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Madam Justice Wright has worked extensively with the Ontario Justice Education Network educating Toronto secondary students about the criminal justice system, and helping with mock trials. She has also published articles on topics such as right to counsel, investigative search and seizure, and show cause hearings. Chief Justice Annemarie E. Bonkalo has assigned Justice Wright to preside in Toronto.

QUOTE

"The scope of legal experience that Justices Rutherford and Wright bring to their new roles will help increase justice for Ontarians," said Attorney General Chris Bentley. "I am confident that they will make significant contributions to the Ontario Court of Justice."

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