

Six New Judges Appointed To The Ontario Court Of Justice

NEWS

June 5, 2009

The province has appointed six new judges to the Ontario Court of Justice, effective June 17, 2009.

Madam Justice Mara Beth Greene was called to the Bar in 1996 and practiced in Toronto with Daniel Brodsky (later Brodsky, Greene & Clarke) in criminal law on cases involving the mentally ill, including Ontario Review Board hearings. From September 1999 to December 2001, she practiced at Pinkofsky Lockyer and in 2002, co-founded Schreck & Greene. She has been involved in every level of criminal court including the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, with a focus on mental health cases. Madam Justice Greene has been a board member of the Criminal Lawyers' Association and has been a speaker at continuing legal education programs for the Law Society of Upper Canada. She has also been a member of the Safe Schools Committee, a board member of the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre and a member and past president of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto. Chief Justice Annemarie Bonkalo has assigned Madam Justice Greene to preside in Toronto.

Mr. Justice Fergus O'Donnell was called to the Bar in 1986 and practiced briefly with the Toronto law firm Borden & Elliot. He then joined the federal Department of Justice and was a prosecutor for over 20 years. During that time, he worked for several years in Brampton and spent six years as team lead of the proceeds of crime units in both Newmarket and London. He was the Deputy Director of the Federal Prosecution Service for three years. In 2007, he joined the Ministry of the Attorney General as part of the Guns and Gangs Unit and has also served as team lead for Asset Forfeiture and as counsel at the OPP Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau. Mr. Justice O'Donnell has given numerous courses and presentations on various aspects of the law and has served as coach for the University of Western Ontario Law School team in the Gale Cup Moot. Chief Justice Annemarie Bonkalo has assigned Mr. Justice O'Donnell to preside in Toronto.

Madam Justice Heather Elizabeth Perkins-McVey was called to the Bar in 1988 and for nine years practiced criminal law with Shore, Davis, Perkins-McVey in Ottawa. Since then, she has been a sole practitioner in criminal matters with a specialized interest in mental health law. She has appeared at all levels of court including the Supreme Court of Canada and in 2008, was appointed by the Minister of Justice as a Special Advocate. Madam Justice Perkins-McVey has been involved in developing the Mental Health Courts in Ottawa and has been a member of the County of Carleton Law Association and the Legal Aid Ontario Area Committee. She has been a volunteer for the Ottawa Hospital Foundation and Vice-President and board member of the House of Hope, a halfway house for federal offenders. Chief Justice Annemarie Bonkalo has assigned Madam Justice Perkins-McVey to preside in Ottawa.

Mr. Justice Wayne Gould Rabley was called to the Bar in 1984 and has worked as a sole practitioner since that time. In his practice, Mr. Justice Rabley focused on criminal and family law as well as civil litigation. He has been specializing in criminal law for the past fifteen years and has argued cases at all levels of the court. Mr. Justice Rabley was a founding member and the first elected president of the Criminal Lawyers' Association of Kitchener-Waterloo, also serving as an executive member from 1998 to 2004. An active member of his community, he has coached many sports teams in the Kitchener-Waterloo area and has been involved in fundraising efforts for the Lori-Anne Global Relief Foundation and SpinAlive, which raises money for St. Mary's General Hospital Cardiac Centre. Chief Justice Annemarie Bonkalo has assigned Mr. Justice Rabley to preside in London.

Mr. Justice Richard Hans Karl Schwarzl was called to the Bar in 1990 and joined Wardlaw, Mullin, Carter and Thwaites in Orangeville and was also a part-time Assistant Crown Attorney. In September 1992, he began prosecuting full-time in both Central West and other areas of southern Ontario. He has been a dedicated Crown for domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse prosecutions. He has prosecuted criminal matters in both the Ontario and Superior Courts of Justice, including first degree murder trials, domestic violence matters and child abuse cases. He has also dealt with cases involving mentally disordered individuals and has extensive experience in drinking and driving cases. Mr. Justice Schwarzl has published various papers on criminal matters. He has been a member of the Caledon Town Hall Players and he was the co-founder and later an officiator with the Orangeville Minor Football League. Chief Justice Annemarie Bonkalo has assigned Mr. Justice Schwarzl to preside in Brampton.

Madam Justice Maria Speyer was called to the Bar in 1988 and was an associate at Giffen Lee & Wagner in Kitchener until 1991 when she became a partner in Grant, Shields & Speyer in Cambridge for a year. Since 2003, she has been a prosecutor with the Ministry of the Attorney General. As Deputy Crown Attorney for Toronto West, she developed and implemented case management protocols to ensure full disclosure and timely prosecution of charges. Most recently, as Assistant Crown Attorney she has prosecuted criminal matters in both the Ontario and Superior Court of Justice. Madam Justice Speyer has been a guest lecturer and mock trial coach at Weston Collegiate Institute, a board member of the Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region and Chair of the United Way Campaign for the Ministry of the Attorney General. Chief Justice Annemarie Bonkalo has assigned Madam Justice Speyer to preside in Hamilton.

QUOTE

"The appointment of these highly experienced individuals will help strengthen our justice system and increase access to justice. I am confident the new justices will make significant contributions to the Ontario Court of Justice."

— Attorney General Chris Bentley

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