

NICHOLAS BALA

Nicholas Bala is an expert on the evolution of legislation, law, and legal processes involving children and, in particular, child sexual abuse. Since 1980, he has been a professor at the Faculty of Law at Queen's University and a visiting professor at McGill, Duke and the University of Calgary. His primary area of teaching and research interest is Family and Children's Law with a focus on child abuse and child witnesses; child welfare law, family violence; best interests of children; and juvenile justice, among others. He has published extensively and his work is regularly cited by the Supreme Court of Canada and Courts of Appeal in a number of provinces.

Prof. Bala is a member of the National Judicial Institute Program Planning Committees for Child Witnesses and High Conflict Parental Separations and is editor of the N. J. I. Electronic Benchbook on Child Witness. He is the principal investigator of an interdisciplinary research project on child witnesses funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Prof. Bala's research on legal issues related to child abuse, youth justice, family violence and family law is extensive and in those areas, he has served as a consultant for the governments of Canada, Ontario and the Yukon and for aboriginal organizations. He was the lead researcher in a report on the Ontario Child Abuse Register (1987-88) and was a member of a research team reviewing the Ontario Office of Child and Family Service Advocacy (2004). He was a consultant to the Special Advisor on Child Sexual Abuse to the Minister of Health and Welfare Canada (1989-90). He also provided advice to Justice Robbins (Ontario, 2000) for his report on child sexual abuse in schools. He has appeared as a witness before Parliamentary Committees 18 times, including five hearings related to child abuse and child witness issues. He has written or co-authored 12 books and more than 100 articles and book chapters.