

Attention News Editors:

Commissioner Goudge announces commission counsel and research director

TORONTO, May 3 /CNW/ - The Honourable Stephen T. Goudge, Commissioner of the Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology in Ontario, announced today that he has appointed four commission counsel and his research director.

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Commissioner Goudge has appointed:

- Linda R. Rothstein, Commission Counsel
- Mark Sandler, Special Counsel, Criminal Law
- Robert A. Centa, Assistant Counsel
- Jennifer McAleer, Assistant Counsel

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Commissioner Goudge has also appointed Prof. Kent Roach of the University of Toronto as Research Director.

Commissioner Goudge made the following statement:

"This Commission has been given a very important job: to restore public confidence in the use and reliability of pediatric forensic pathology evidence in Ontario's criminal proceedings. We must produce a report and recommendations that will minimize the possibility that the administration of justice could be affected by flawed pathology findings or evidence.

"This Commission must examine important systemic issues including the interaction among coroners, pediatric forensic pathologists, police officers, crown attorneys, and defence counsel. The Commission will examine the strengths and weaknesses of the accountability and oversight mechanisms that were and are in place to ensure that justice is done and that it is seen to be done.

"The Commission of Inquiry is dedicated to making sure that no one ever has to endure the horror of being charged criminally, or having a family unit pulled apart, or being convicted because of flawed pathology findings or evidence. It can neither correct errors where new evidence may indicate that a conviction is unsafe nor provide financial compensation.

"I look forward to working with Senator Campbell, and my counsel and research team to conduct an efficient and thorough investigation, and to deliver a useful report in one year. We are developing our work plan and will provide an update to the public shortly."

The biographies of the individuals appointed by the Commissioner:

Linda R. Rothstein is the managing partner of the law firm Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP. Her practice includes civil and administrative litigation, and she has particular expertise in public law. Recently, she was the City of Toronto's lead counsel at the Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry. She is the co-author of the leading Canadian text on legal malpractice, and an author of many articles on substantive and procedural law. Ms. Rothstein is a

Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and is the Past President of The Advocates' Society. In June 2005, Ms. Rothstein was awarded the Law Society Medal for distinguished service to the profession.

Mark J. Sandler is a partner in the law firm of Cooper, Sandler & West. His practice is primarily devoted to appellate and trial criminal litigation. He has also served as a part-time Assistant Crown Attorney. He is a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada. He served as associate counsel to the Commission on Proceedings against Guy Paul Morin (the Kaufman Inquiry), counsel to the Review to make Recommendations to Identify and Prevent Sexual Misconduct in Ontario Schools (the Robins Inquiry), and as counsel or senior policy advisor to three other reviews in Ontario and Nova Scotia. He most recently assisted Mr. Kaufman in rendering an opinion to the Minister of Justice concerning Steven Truscott's application to set aside his conviction, a matter currently before the courts. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Robert A. Centa is a partner in the law firm Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP. He acts in all areas of advocacy, with an emphasis on public law and business litigation. He has acted as counsel for parties with standing in three inquiries. In 1999, he graduated as gold medalist from the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. Prior to his call to the Ontario Bar, Mr. Centa clerked for the Justices of the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

Jennifer McAleer is a partner in the law firm Fasken Martineau. She has a broad litigation practice with an emphasis in tort law, and also acts on behalf of clients in the area of criminal and regulatory defence. Ms. McAleer currently acts as co-counsel on behalf of the former Premier of Ontario, before the Ipperwash Provincial Public Inquiry.

Kent Roach is a Professor of Law at the University of Toronto with cross-appointments in criminology and political science, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Since 1998, Professor Roach has been editor-in-chief of the Criminal Law Quarterly. Professor Roach served on advisory committees for both the Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar and the Ipperwash Inquiry. His current research involves the comparative study of miscarriages of justice, comparative judicial review and comparative anti-terrorism law and policy.

Please note that, as is customary for the judiciary, Commissioner Goudge will NOT be giving media interviews.

For further information: Peter Rehak, media contact for the Inquiry, at (416) 992-0679 (cell)