

BIOGRAPHIES
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
CANADIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Master Robert Beaudoin,
Civil Court Administration and Procedural Reform Specialist

Master Beaudoin, currently a Case Management Master in the Superior Court of Justice, has over 18 years of working knowledge and practical experience in court administration gained throughout his career which began from his position as a local registrar of courts.

His extensive experience in civil justice, court administration and procedural reform from both an internal and external perspective of justice system reform and review, enabled Master Beaudoin to play a pivotal role in the review process of the Civil Justice system in the Province of Ontario, Canada. This resulted in extensive system-wide reforms, including the establishment of case management systems and mandatory mediation.

Master Beaudoin has provided training and technical assistance related to court administration and procedural reform (on issues such as Case Management, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation) on international development projects sponsored by the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and CIDA in Sri Lanka, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, as well as for six (6) countries served by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. In his work for the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Master Beaudoin assisted the Chief Justice with the development and implementation of case management procedures, related advocacy with the government, and provided training for newly appointment case management masters based on the Ontario model.

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert A. Blair,
Appeal Court Judge**

Mr. Justice Blair was appointed to the Court of Appeal for Ontario on November 5, 2003. Prior to that appointment, he served as Regional Senior Justice for the Toronto Region of the Superior Court of Justice, subsequent to his appointment to that jurisdiction in 1991.

As an ardent supporter of the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution techniques, both before and after his appointment to the Bench, Justice Blair was a member of the Steering Committee, which oversaw the implementation of a Court-connected ADR Center in Toronto, the first of its kind in Canada. He was also closely involved with the Mandatory Mediation project in Toronto and the introduction of case management in Ontario.

Justice Blair was also Co-Chair of the Civil Justice Review, which conducted a broad review of the civil justice system in Ontario and made extensive recommendations regarding the implementation of an integrated series of reforms to that system.

As a judge he has presided in all areas of the work of the Superior Court, with particular emphasis on cases on the Commercial List at Toronto. This followed his primary area of practice in the field of general civil litigation, with an emphasis on corporate/commercial litigation and administrative law, after he was accepted to the Bar in Ontario in 1970.

Mr. Justice Blair received his B.A. (Hons.) from Queen's University in 1965 and his LL.B. from University of Toronto Law School in 1968.

**The Honourable Mr. Justice James B. Chadwick, Q.C.,
Former Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of the Province of Ontario,
Mediation and Arbitration Specialist**

Justice Chadwick, while serving as Regional Senior Justice of the East Region of Ontario from 1994 to 2000, pioneered the pilot project of Mandatory Mediation and Case Management in Ottawa, which was eventually adopted into the Ontario Rules of Civil Procedure.

His commitment to the advancement in justice administration also extended to managing the provision of pro bono legal services in the Province of Ontario, prior to the inception of Legal Aid Ontario. He later sat as a member and then as the Chair (1981-83) of the Ontario Legal Aid Plan.

Justice Chadwick, with extensive experience in civil and criminal law gained from 24 years in private practice, followed by 15 years as a highly respected judge of the Superior Court of Justice of the Province of Ontario, has been very active in justice system reform in Canada. He is known for his advocacy for the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures to ease the burden on the courts and currently works as a mediator, arbitrator and facilitator.

In recognition of his contribution to reforms of the justice system he was presented with an Honourary Doctor of Laws degree by the Law Society of Upper Canada in 2004.

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Griffith,
Criminal Law Specialist**

Justice Griffiths has been a member of the Ontario Court of Justice since 1998, a very busy trial court that deals with more than 90% of all the criminal cases in the Province. His strong court administration skills earned him the recent appointment as Regional Senior Justice for the East Region.

Justice Griffiths, whose primary responsibility entails the assignment of 30 judges, overseeing the scheduling of criminal trials, and monitoring court backlogs, has developed successful Case Management techniques to speed the flow of criminal cases through the courts.

Prior to his appointment to the Bench, Justice Griffith was a senior prosecutor with administrative responsibilities and served as the Director of Crown Operations, East Region of Ontario. His tenure in this office was invaluable to his role in developing policies for prosecutors relating to subjects that include Resolution Discussions, Disclosure, Domestic Violence, and Witness Protection.

He was also responsible for the development of the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario's policy on Restorative Justice and Diversion.

Justice Griffith, with his extensive experience in criminal matters, has been active in the training of judges, lawyers, police, and other legal officials throughout Canada.

Diana J. Lowe,
Civil Justice Specialist:

Diana Lowe, who is equipped with extensive experience coordinating law reform initiatives undertaken by multi-disciplinary coalitions including the public, is the Executive Director of the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice.

The Forum is a national organization established in May 1998, as a direct result of the CBA's *System's of Civil Justice Task Force Report (1996)*, to help meet the challenges of modernizing the civil justice systems in Canada. It is dedicated to bringing together the public, the courts, the legal profession and government in order to promote a civil justice system that is accessible, effective, fair and efficient.

The Forum is the only organization in Canada which addresses the need for information sharing, research and collaborative efforts, aimed at improving Canada's civil justice systems and fills a gap which existed prior to 1998. Its work is increasingly sought out by Departments of Justice, the judiciary, court administration, the bar, educators and justice system users.

The Forum's work touches every aspect of the civil justice system in each jurisdiction, and includes access to justice issues, rules of procedure, ADR, court administration, the judiciary, the bar, public legal education, technology and statistics.

Susan T. McGrath,
Senior Civil Litigation Lawyer

Ms. McGrath is a leading civil litigation lawyer in Canada. She has held various senior positions within the legal profession including President of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) for 2004-2005. She was also the Deputy Area Director for the District of Cochrane for Legal Aid Ontario from 1997 to 2000, and continues to sit on the Legal Aid Area Committee.

Ms. McGrath has been involved in various justice review and reform processes in Canada including the CBA's *Task Force on Gender Equality, Touchstones for Change*, 1992-1993 and the *Civil Justice Review* for the Province of Ontario.

She is a lecturer on various aspects in the area of civil law including child support guidelines and civil remedies.

**The Honourable Madame Justice Debra Paulseth,
Family and Youth Court Judge
Administration and Procedural Reform Specialist**

Justice Paulseth is considered a leading expert in justice reform in Canada with a specialty in court procedural reform and information technology. She has substantial experience in directing the administration and management of Ontario courts, reviewing and assessing the justice system, and formulating and implementing policies related to the courts.

In March 1994 she was named Counsel to the Ontario Civil Justice Review, a joint initiative of the Attorney General and the Chief Justice of the Superior Court. The Review addressed issues such as backlog, case flow management and alternative dispute resolution, management information systems, re-organization of administrative staff and courts administration, judicial support work and auxiliary judicial officers, etc. It made a number of recommendations which led to the implementation of a system of case management and of mandatory referral to mediation.

Her interest in technology led to the first project in Canada to initiate electronic filing of court documents. It further resulted in her supervision of one of the most important tools the Ministry of the Attorney General has made available to Family Courts and the Superior Court – the new FRANK technology. This permits the court to statistically track and quantify the disposition of cases and to schedule and assign judicial resources.

Justice Paulseth joined the Court Services Division In 1995,, first as Director of Toronto Courts and in 2001 as Assistant Deputy Minister. In 2003 she was appointed Associate Chair of the Task Force on the Discovery Process in Ontario. The Task Force examined the use of the discovery process in civil litigation and issued a report recommending changes to the practice.

Justice Paulseth was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice in November, 2005.

**John Pearson,
Prosecution Specialist**

John Pearson is a member of the Ontario and Nova Scotia Bars. He served as Crown counsel and then a Deputy Director of the Crown Law Office Criminal, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, from 1978 to 1990, where he represented the Crown in criminal trials and appeals at all levels of court in Ontario and in the Supreme Court of Canada.

In 1990 Mr. Pearson was appointed Canada's first statutorily independent Director of Public Prosecutions in Nova Scotia. In 1996 he became Director of Crown Operations, Central West Region, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, where he is responsible for the delivery of prosecution services by 195 counsel and staff.

John Pearson was ministry project lead on the Criminal Justice Review Committee and a member of the Chief Justice's *Advisory Committee On Criminal Trials In The Superior Court*.

Educated at the University of Toronto (B.A.) and Osgoode Hall Law School (LL.B., LL.M.), he has taught criminal law, procedure and evidence at bar admission courses in Ontario and Nova Scotia and at Dalhousie Law School.

Mark Sandler,
Defence Lawyer and Criminal Law Specialist

Mr. Sandler is a leading criminal defence lawyer at the appellate and trial levels in Canada, as well as a member of the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. He has served as Crown Attorney (prosecutor), as well as, specially appointed counsel for the Department of Justice and the Commissioner of Competition.

He is a leader of the legal profession of Ontario in a variety of roles, currently as a bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada (governing body of lawyers in Ontario). As a Bencher, Mr. Sandler is the past-Chair and current member of the, Appeal Panel; Chair, Tribunal Composition Task Force; Vice-Chair, Hearings Panel, Vice-Chair, Tribunals Committee, and Member, Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee and Member, Investigations Task Force. As Chair of the Appeal Panel, he heard appellate cases and authored many of the judgements.

The Tribunal Composition Task Force and Tribunals Committee deal with issues very similar to those of concern to the administration of criminal and civil justice: such as delays, simplified rules of practice and procedure, composition of hearing panels, courtroom security, adjudicator's codes of conduct.

In addition to being counsel in a number of high profile public inquires and in other advisory positions to the government in which he considered issues of justice system functioning, Mr. Sandler has been a part-time faculty member at Osgoode Law School from 1992 to 2005. He has also participated as a lecturer, panellist and author in over 80 educational programmes offered by the LSUC, its Bar Admission programme, the Criminal Lawyers' Association (co-chairing its Annual Education Programme and Convention for three years), the Advocates' Society, including its Appellate Advocacy Program, Ontario Bar Association, the National Judicial Institute, Canadian Bar Association.

**Mohan Sharma,
Civil Law Specialist**

Mohan Sharma is currently Project Director for Ontario's Civil Justice Reform Project. From 2000 to 2005 he worked in the Court Services Division, Civil/Family Policy and Programs Branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario providing policy advice and research on civil justice reform initiatives in Ontario and other common law jurisdictions.

Over this period, Mr. Sharma has served as Lead Division Counsel on Civil Rules Committee amendments, and other civil justice related legislative and regulatory amendments, and Research Counsel to the Task Force on the Discovery Process in Ontario.

He was a drafter and reviewer of legal opinions and other legal advice impacting the Superior Court of Justice and the Small Claims Court; as well as, serving as a member of various implementation teams for several key civil justice reform initiatives.

Mr. Sharma's other contributions include his service as the Branch counsel assigned to work with the Information Technology team responsible for developing and implementing a new provincial case tracking system; and, the Ministry representative on several committees with the judiciary and senior bar representatives, including the Drafting Committee of the New Case Management Procedure for Toronto and the provincial Simplified Procedure Rule Subcommittee.

He also conducted research, policy analysis, stakeholder consultations, and legislation/regulation development with respect to the following civil justice reform areas in Ontario: (1) Increase to the Small Claims Court monetary jurisdiction; (2) Introduction of Simplified Procedure in Ontario for civil claims; Expansion of civil case management and mandatory mediation; and (3) Fee structure for users of the civil justice system, including a system to waive fees for impecunious litigants.

Prior to joining the Ministry of the Attorney General, Mr. Sharma practiced civil litigation in the areas of commercial, employment, and human rights law.