

## Faculty Biographies

### **The Honourable Justice Gloria J. Epstein, *Court of Appeal for Ontario***

Justice Epstein graduated from Queen's University with an Honours Bachelor of Commerce in 1972. For the next two years she lived on an island in Temagami, Ontario and owned and operated a fishing camp. She returned to Toronto to study law at the University of Toronto and graduated in 1977. She practiced with Fasken & Calvin and then Fraser & Beatty before starting her own firm - Gloria Epstein and Associates. Justice Epstein became a Queen's Counsel in 1992, to the Superior Court of Justice (Ontario) in 1993 and to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in 2007. In June of 1998 the Premier of Ontario made her head of the Review of the government's involvement in the lives of the Dionne Quintuplets. Past and Current involvements include Instructor, Bar Admission Course, Civil Procedure; York University, Advocacy Programme and Mooting Program. Director of the Ontario Development Corporation; National secretary and member of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews; Member of the Copyright Committee, Canadian Association of Broadcasters; Director of The Starlight Foundation; Director of Women's College Hospital Foundation; Director of World Film Festival of Toronto, Director of the Ontario Superior Judges Association, Chair of the Chief Justice's Media Committee. Co-chair of the education committee of the CIAJ, member of Committee established to facilitate access to the courts for people with disabilities. Strong supporter of the Canadian Women's Foundation. Member of the Education Committee of the Canadian Judicial Council, and Chair of the Family Rules Committee. Co-chair of the Ontario Justice Education Network. Vice-President of the University of Toronto Law Alumni Association. She is the founder of the McMurtry Gardens of Justice.

### **The Honourable Justice Mark L.J. Edwards, *Superior Court of Justice***

Mr. Justice Edwards received a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from Queen's University in 1975 and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from Cambridge University (England) in 1978 and Dalhousie University in 1979. He was admitted to the Ontario Bar in 1981. Mr. Justice Edwards began practising with the firm Beard Winter in 1984 and, until the date of his appointment, was managing partner. He was an associate with Osler Hoskin & Harcourt from 1979 to 1984. His main areas of practice are civil litigation, tort and insurance law, criminal law, family law, corporate and commercial litigation. Mr. Justice Edwards has been a guest speaker at various conferences offered by the Advocates Society and the Law Society of Upper Canada.

### **The Honourable Justice Thomas J. McEwen, *Superior Court of Justice***

Justice McEwen was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice on June 19, 2009. He serves in the Central East region and is chambered in Newmarket. Prior to that he was a longtime partner with Adair Morse LLP practicing in the area of major tort litigation.

### **The Honourable Justice Michael K. McKelvey, *Superior Court of Justice***

Michael McKelvey is a justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Central East Region). Previously, while in private practice, Mr. McKelvey practiced extensively in the health law area. He is a past president of the Medico-Legal Society of Toronto and consulting editor for Ontario Consent and Capacity Legislation published annually by Canada Law Book. Mr. McKelvey is also the author of Ontario Health Legislation: An Annotated Guide and an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School in their trial practice course.

### **The Honourable Justice Anne M. Mullins, *Superior Court of Justice***

Madam Justice Mullins received a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University in 1979 and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Ottawa in 1983. She was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1985. Madam Justice Mullins was an employee at Hughes Laishley Touhey & Sigouin, Barristers and Solicitors from 1985 to 1988, an instructor at the Law Society of Upper Canada from 1990 to 2005 and an instructor at Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology from 2000 to 2001. She has been an employee and then partner with Rasmussen Starr Ruddy LLP from 1988 to 2002 and an associate with Augustine Bater Polowin LLP since 2002 to 2009. Madam Justice Mullins has developed practise experience in mediation, civil litigation, insurance law, family law, employment law and commercial litigation.

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### **The Honourable Justice Elizabeth M. Stewart**, Superior Court of Justice

Justice Elizabeth M. Stewart was appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in September 2003. Having been assigned by the Chief Justice to Toronto since her appointment, Justice Stewart has presided over cases in the Civil, Commercial, Criminal, and Family sections of the Superior Court. Justice Stewart holds a law degree from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, conferred in 1976, as well as a Master of Laws from the University of Sydney, Australia. After completing her articles at McCarthy & McCarthy (now McCarthy Tétrault) in Toronto, Justice Stewart joined its litigation department in 1978 and practised there as an associate and partner until her appointment to the bench. While in practice she concentrated exclusively on civil litigation and administrative law, representing educational institutions, regulatory authorities, medical and legal professionals as well as many corporations and private individuals in the courts and before administrative tribunals. Justice Stewart is a former Director and member of the Advocates' Society, the International Association of Women Judges, International Commission of Jurists and the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. She has served as an instructor in the Trial Advocacy program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law as well as the Intensive Trial Advocacy program offered by Osgoode Hall Law School. Justice Stewart has spoken at and chaired many educational conferences and seminars presented by the Advocates' Society, the Ontario, Canadian and American Bar Associations and several other legal organizations.

### **The Honourable Justice E. Ria Tzimas**, Superior Court of Justice

Justice Ria Tzimas was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice in Brampton on October 4, 2012. Prior to that she had an extended legal career with the Crown Law Office Civil, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario where she was a leading expert in aboriginal law and aboriginal litigation. She is also Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School. Prior to her counsel position at CLOC, she was in private practise with Sotos, Karvanis, where she had a general litigation practise. Her education included a B.A. from McGill and an LL.B and LL.M from Osgoode Hall Law School. Outside of the law Justice Tzimas has been the Chair of the VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto and an active member of the Hellenic Canadian Lawyers Association, the Ontario Bar Association, the Advocates' Society and the Greek community.

### **The Honourable Justice Darla A. Wilson**, Superior Court of Justice

Madam Justice Darla Wilson received a Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University in 1981, and a Bachelor of Laws from Queen's University in 1984. She was admitted to the Bar of Ontario in 1986. Madam Justice Wilson, was previously a partner with Lawson McGrenere LLP where she practiced exclusively in the area of civil litigation. She carried on her practice throughout Ontario defending hospitals and other health care facilities on negligence claims, general insurance defence work including occupier's liability, motor vehicle and municipal negligence claims as well as representing plaintiffs in personal injury claims. Madam Justice Wilson was an instructor in Trial Advocacy at the University of Toronto Law School, as well as a Director of Advocates' Society and a member of the Board of Directors of the Medico-Legal Society. In December 2007, she was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto. Madam Justice Wilson is an avid runner, and completed the Boston Marathon in 2010.

### **The Honourable W. Ian C. Binnie**, C.C., Q.C., *Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP*

Ian Binnie, C.C., Q.C. is counsel at Lenczner Slaght. One of Canada's most respected advocates, the Honourable Ian Binnie served for nearly 14 years as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. When he retired in 2011 he was described by The Globe and Mail as "arguably the country's premier judge" and by La Presse as "peut-être le juge le plus influent au Canada dans la dernière décennie." During his time on the country's top court (as only the second modern Justice appointed directly from the bar) Ian authored more than 170 opinions, including on landmark cases involving issues of patent interpretation and validity, protection of trade-marks, media law, commercial disputes, punitive damages, expert evidence and many aspects of constitutional, criminal and administrative law. In his role as Counsel with Lenczner Slaght, Ian shares strategic and practical advice, as well as his dispute resolution expertise, with his colleagues and the firm's clients. In doing so he draws not only on his judicial insights, but also his wealth of courtroom experience as one of Canada's top litigators. Over the course of three decades, he argued cases in most of the common law provinces and appeared regularly before the Supreme Court on a range of constitutional, civil and criminal matters. Throughout his career as a litigator, Ian has often taken on public service roles as well. In the early 1980s he served for four years as Canada's Associate Deputy Minister of Justice. He was later appointed Special

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Parliamentary Counsel to the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on the Meech Lake Accord. An elected member of the International Commission of Jurists, he has appeared before the International Court of Justice and various international tribunals in governmental litigation matters, and has acted as Canadian representative in high-profile disputes involving France and the U.S.

### **Laura F. Cooper**, *Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP*

Laura Cooper is an experienced commercial litigator with extensive experience in class actions. She has represented clients in numerous competition class actions, as well as in class actions with respect to securities, product liability, mass torts and employment and regularly acts on cross-border matters. Laura is Chair of Fasken Martineau's Ontario Litigation Department, Co-Chair of its Class Actions Practice Group and Chair of its Pro Bono Committee. She is a member of The Board of Directors of The Advocates' Society and The Board of Directors of Pro Bono Law Ontario. Laura has been a frequent speaker on topics related to class actions, competition and securities. She has taught class actions as an Adjunct Professor at Queen's Law School and has for many years taught advocacy skills at programs presented by The Advocates' Society.

### **Alf Kwinter**, *Singer, Kwinter*

Alf Kwinter was born in Vienna, Austria. He grew up in downtown Toronto and obtained his B.A. from the University of Toronto in 1967 and his law degree from the University of Toronto in 1970. In 1974 Alf and his classmate Morris Singer founded the firm of Singer, Kwinter. For the first 10 years of his career, Alf practiced mostly criminal law before switching to the civil side representing plaintiffs in personal injury, malpractice and insurance claims. He has appeared as counsel at all court levels including The Supreme Court of Canada, where he appeared on behalf of the successful plaintiff in the landmark decision of *Oldfield v. Transamerica Insurance Company*. In a trial involving a fire loss claim, the jury awarded Alf's client the amount of the claim plus \$2,500,000 for punitive damages—a new Canadian record. He has appeared as counsel on a number of other ground breaking cases including *Kamin v. Kawartha Dairy* which changed the law on trip and fall and *Degennaro v. Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital*—the largest award in Canada for chronic pain. Alf is a member of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, the Canadian Bar Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the American Bar Association. He has taught trial practice in the Bar Admission Course and has been invited to speak at numerous programs sponsored by The Advocates' Society, OTLA, CBA and the LSUC. Alf has been certified as a specialist in Civil Litigation by The Law Society of Upper Canada and is a past director of the Advocates Society. He is currently an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School. In May 2004, Alf was awarded the H. Bruce Hillyer Award by the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cause of civil justice and for exemplifying the spirit of OTLA in fearlessly advancing the cause of individual rights by the effective use of trial advocacy. Alf delivered the keynote address at the Atlantic Trial Lawyers Association in St. John's, Newfoundland in 2005 and in November 2008 Alf was again honoured by the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association at its annual "Celebration of the Personal Injury Bar". On June 6th, 2012 at the Advocates' Society End of Term Dinner, Alf was presented with an award for Excellence in Teaching.