

2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

National Advisory Committee

The Honourable Frank Iacobucci,
C.C., Q.C., *Chairperson*

The Honourable Gérard V. La
Forest, C.C., Q.C., *Honorary
Chairperson*

The Honourable Peter Cory, C.C.,
C.D. Q.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

The Honourable John C. Major,
C.C., Q.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

The Honourable Michel Bastarache,
C.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

The Honourable Louise Charron,
C.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

The Honourable Ian Binnie, C.C.,
Q.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

The Honourable Marie Deschamps,
C.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

The Honourable Morris J. Fish,
Q.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

Sheila Block, L.S.M., *Member for
Ontario*

Frank R. Foran, Q.C., *Member for
Alberta*

Daniel Jutras, Ad. E., *Member for
Quebec*

Robert Leurer, Q.C., *Member for
Saskatchewan*

E. W. Olson, Q.C., *Member for
Manitoba*

Richard Peck, Q.C., *Member for
British Columbia*

Richard J. Scott, Q.C., *Member for
Atlantic Canada*

Shantona Chaudhury, *Executive
Director*

Grégoire Webber, *Executive
Director*

In 2013-2014, the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute completed its seventh year of service, during which it continued to provide counsel appearing for argument before the Supreme Court of Canada with rigorous practice sessions. The Institute's advocacy program aims to increase the effectiveness and quality of advocacy before the Court by simulating for counsel the experience of oral argument before the highest court. A panel of seasoned Supreme Court advocates listens to counsel's argument and offers candid and constructive feedback to help maximize counsel's opportunity to present informative and effective oral submissions.

Participation rates continue to be strong. This year, the Institute provided free, non-partisan advocacy sessions in approximately 36% of cases before the Court. Counsel from both government and private practice use the Institute's advocacy program in a wide range of civil and criminal appeals. Counsel making use of the Institute over the past year included seasoned advocates as well as first-time counsel before the Court. Over the course of the year, the Institute provided advocacy sessions in 40% of appeals from British Columbia, 38% from Ontario, 61% from Quebec, and 29% from the Atlantic provinces.

Fifty-two (52) lawyers donated their time as advocacy advisors for their colleagues, offering advice based on their own experience before the Court. Many participated in more than one session, illustrating the commitment of our advocacy advisors to the bar and to the public. The Institute receives positive feedback from counsel who have used the Institute's advocacy program on the level of preparation of our advisors for practice sessions. To honour the dedication of our advocacy advisors, the Institute hosted a reception in their honour on October 16, 2014 in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Institute is proud to report that the American College of Trial Lawyers Canadian Foundation, the Ontario Bar Association Foundation, and the Advocates' Society have made new funding commitments in support of the Institute's activities. We also gratefully acknowledge the continuing support of the Law Foundation of Ontario and the Canadian Bar Association.

Important changes within the Institute took place during the past year. We were delighted to welcome the Honourable Morris Fish as an Honorary Chairperson following his retirement from the Court. We were pleased to welcome Geoff Cowper, Q.C., one of the Institute's longest serving advocacy advisors, to the British Columbia regional committee, further to the appointment of The Honourable George K. Macintosh to the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

We also congratulate advocacy advisor Jill Copeland on her appointment to the Ontario Court of Justice, advocacy advisor Henry Brown, Q.C., on his appointment to the Federal Court, and advocacy advisor Michal Fairburn on her appointment to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

The most important change to the Institute's advocacy program was the appointment of session coordinators for each province or region, contributing to the Institute's presence across Canada. Michael Feder (British Columbia), April Grosse (Alberta), Sacha Paul (Manitoba), Colleen Bauman (Ontario: Ottawa), Erin Dann (Ontario: Toronto), Pierre-Jérôme Bouchard (Quebec), and Julia Hughes (Atlantic provinces) have taken responsibility for organizing advocacy sessions in their respective regions. We thank them for their important contributions.

In addition to its advocacy program, the Institute was also active in promoting its CLE program. In June 2014, Institute advocacy advisors Roslyn Levine and Jonathan Dawe gave a presentation on the art of oral advocacy at the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General's Summer Education Conference.

We estimate that, through the 2013-2014 period, the Institute's advocacy advisors, committee members, and executive directors contributed approximately \$360,000 in *pro bono* services to the benefit of parties and their counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada, bringing the total contribution since 2006 to \$2.75 million.

Thanks to the willingness of all members to donate their time on a *pro bono* basis, the Institute maintains low-cost operations. We thank Torys LLP for providing the Institute with *pro bono* services in support of our charitable status.