



National Advisory Committee

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

The Right Honourable Beverley
McLachlin, C.C., *Honorary 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, C.C.,
Q.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

The Honourable Louis LeBel, C.C.,
Honorary Chairperson

The Honourable Marshall Rothstein,
C.C., Q.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

The Honourable Thomas A. Cromwell,
C.C., *Honorary Chairperson*

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

David Coles, Q.C., *Member for Atlantic
Canada*

Mona Duckett, Q.C., *Member for
Alberta*

Anthony B. Gerein, Q.C., *Member for
Saskatchewan*

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

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

Richard J. Wolson, Q.C., *Member for
Manitoba*

Shantona Chaudhury, *Executive Director*

Grégoire Webber, M.S.M., *Executive
Director*

Owen Rees, M.S.M., *Member at Large*

Pierre-Jérôme Bouchard, *Member at
Large*

Michael Feder, Q.C., *Member at Large*

Year in Review 2017-2018

In 2017-2018, the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute completed its eleventh year of activities, 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 by simulating for counsel the experience of oral argument before the highest court. A panel of seasoned Supreme Court advocates hears counsel's argument and offers candid and constructive feedback to assist counsel in making their oral submissions effective and helpful to the Court.

Demand for the Institute's advocacy program is high. Over the past year, the Institute provided free, non-partisan advocacy sessions in 55% of cases before the Court. Participation rates were particularly high in Ontario (where 86% of appeals benefitted from the Institute's services), Quebec (where 73% of appeals benefitted from the Institute's services), and British Columbia (where 45% of appeals benefitted from the Institute's services). The Institute's advocacy program was used for a wide range of appeals in civil and criminal matters, by counsel working in private practice as well as in government, and by seasoned advocates as well as first-time counsel before the Court.

Sixty (60) lawyers donated their time as advocacy advisors for the Institute, offering advice to counsel based on their own experience before the Court. Many participated in more than one session, illustrating once again the dedication of our advocacy advisors to the bar, to the public, and to access to justice. The Institute continues to receive extremely appreciative feedback from counsel who have used the advocacy program. Counsel are grateful for the time and effort the advisors devote to the sessions, and note that the mock hearings are a highly valuable aspect of their preparation, resulting in improved oral argument before the Court.

The Institute's advocacy sessions are organized by session coordinators in each province. For their invaluable assistance in delivering the Institute's services, we thank Mila Shah (British Columbia), Julie G. Hopkins (Alberta), Sacha Paul (Manitoba), Colleen Bauman (Ontario: Ottawa), Erin Dann (Ontario: Toronto), Audrey Boctor and Pierre-Jérôme Bouchard (Quebec), and Julia Hughes (Atlantic provinces).

In the course of the year, the Institute launched a new, modern webpage to facilitate communications with counsel and litigants who may be interested in the Institute's services.

In pursuit of its mandate for continuing legal education, the Institute's executive directors, Shantona Chaudhury and Grégoire Webber, attended the Supreme Court of Canada Symposium in October 2017 and Shantona Chaudhury presented at the Advocates' Society Education Centre's *Supreme Court of Canada Advocacy* conference that same month.

A number of Institute members were appointed to the bench in the course of the 2017-2018 year. At the risk of omission, we congratulate former committee members Justice April Grosse (Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta) and Justice Benjamin Zarnett (Ontario Court of Appeal) and former advocacy advisors Justice Frédéric Bachand (Superior Court of Quebec), Justice Marie-Claude Bélanger-Richard (New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench), Justice Jonathan Dawe (Ontario Superior Court of Justice), Justice Sébastien Grammond (Federal Court), Justice Sylvain Lussier (Superior Court of Quebec), Justice John Norris (Federal Court), and Justice Gillian Roberts (Ontario Superior Court of Justice). We also congratulate former advocacy advisor Senator Pierre Dalphond for his appointment to the Senate of Canada.

We mark the retirement of outgoing chair of the Alberta Regional Committee Frank Foran, who has led the work of the Institute in Alberta since 2007, and of advocacy advisors Caroline Carron and Thomas Heintzman. The Institute also mourns the passing of Richard Scott, who had served as chair of the Regional Committee for Atlantic Canada since its founding in 2009.

We welcome Mona Duckett as the new chair of the Regional Committee for Alberta and David Coles as the new chair of the Regional Committee for Atlantic Canada.

We estimate that in the 2017-2018 year, the Institute's advocacy advisors, committee members, and executive directors contributed approximately \$555,500 in *pro bono* services to the benefit of parties and their counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada, bringing the Institute's total *pro bono* contribution since 2006 to approximately \$5.07 million.

The Institute's ability to provide its advocacy program to all counsel without charge is made possible by the generous funding provided by the Advocates' Society, the American College of Trial Lawyers Canadian Foundation, the Law Foundation of Ontario, and the Ontario Bar Association Foundation. Thanks to the willingness of all participants to donate their time on a *pro bono* basis, the Institute maintains low-cost operations. We thank Torys LLP for continuing to provide the Institute with *pro bono* services in support of our charitable status.