

2013 Distinguished Service Awards

The Distinguished Service Awards celebrate excellence in the legal profession. Jointly awarded by the Law Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association - Alberta, these prestigious awards recognize the many outstanding contributions Alberta lawyers make to the community, to the profession, to legal scholarship, and in pro bono legal service.



SERVING
the PUBLIC
INTEREST



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
Alberta Branch

Friday, February 1, 2013
The Fairmont Hotel MacDonald
11:30 a.m.

**Presented by the Law Society of Alberta and
the Canadian Bar Association - Alberta**

www.lawsociety.ab.ca
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Arlene J. Kwasniak Legal Scholarship

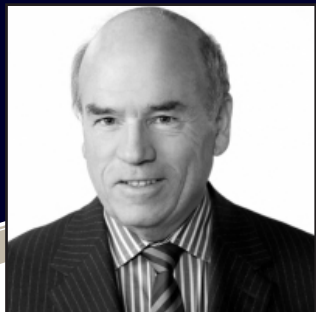
Ms. Kwasniak is a pioneer who has advanced the role of law in a sustainable society. Through her extensive legal career, both as a practitioner and an academic, she has been described as “a prolific and significant legal scholar.” After earning her law degree from the University of Alberta

in 1980, Ms. Kwasniak spent a decade in private practice. Her foray into environmental law began in 1991, when she joined the Environmental Law Centre as Staff Counsel and was promoted to Executive Director in 1999. Her influence on law reform is clearly demonstrated by her consultation with the Government of Alberta regarding conservation easement legislation, which led to the amendment of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. In 2003, she joined the University of Calgary’s Faculty of Law, educating law students while continuing innovative research. Ms. Kwasniak has contributed to many scholarly publications, authored numerous books, chapters, journal and magazine articles, as well as delivered several presentations and keynote addresses. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Water Conservation Trust of Canada, as well as the Canadian Institute of Resources Law, and is an honorary member of the Instream Flow Council.

Thomas R. Owen Service to the Community



Mr. Owen has been characterized as an “example of a lawyer ‘walking the walk’ when it comes to selfless community involvement.” He has devoted thousands of hours to CASA Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health, a not-for-profit charitable organization providing mental health services for infants, children, adolescents and their families from Central to Northern Alberta. Each year CASA treats over 3,000 children and adolescents, many who suffer from severe mental illness. Mr. Owen has been on the CASA Board of Directors for ten years, serving six years as the Chair. He was subsequently elected as Chair of the CASA Foundation in September 2011, dedicating significant time and effort toward fund development. He is credited with being at the helm for a significant revenue base increase and securing new facilities and government support, despite unstable economic times. He is now focused on raising funds to build a new CASA Centre to replace the 60-year-old main service facility. In addition to these extensive community commitments, Mr. Owen has maintained an active law practice focusing on surface rights advocacy, aboriginal child welfare and aboriginal governance.



Alexander D. Pringle, QC Service to the Profession

It is an accomplishment to be recognized as distinguished amongst one’s peers; it is on another echelon entirely to be held in the highest regard by one’s opponents. Mr. Pringle has achieved this rare feat throughout four decades as a criminal lawyer. As Assistant Deputy Minister,

Greg Lepp writes, “Mr. Pringle’s proficiency in his craft is something to behold.” The judiciary has recognized Mr. Pringle as an influential force in shaping the post-Charter state of the law on both a provincial and national level, obtaining landmark decisions in the Supreme Court of Canada. He has been described by his nominator as exemplifying the highest caliber of legal service, as a criminal lawyer, educator, mentor and innovator. Mr. Pringle’s inherent ability to sculpt minds, young and old, is a hallmark of his remarkable career. He has dedicated over 30 years to serving as a sessional professor at the University of Alberta and has always set aside time to take on articling students. Mr. Pringle was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1992 and has been named as one of Canada’s top criminal lawyers by the National Post. The sterling reputation of Mr. Pringle bolsters the reputation of the entire legal profession in Alberta.

Yessy Byl Pro Bono Legal Service



Ms. Byl demonstrates a proactive, passionate commitment to advocating for the rights of Temporary Foreign Workers within the Alberta Legal Community and beyond. With a dynamic background in labour relations law, Ms. Byl has been a volunteer lawyer with the Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC) since 2003. Over 100 low-income individuals and families have benefited from free legal services extended by Ms. Byl, who provides legal support and advice to Temporary Foreign workers. Her pursuit of justice not only manifests in her pro bono work on individual case files, she is a dedicated agent for social change. She has made significant contributions to research and publications, written letters, delivered speeches and engaged the public to enhance understanding of this fast-growing group of immigrants in Alberta. She is recognized as being single-handedly responsible for the organization of the Temporary Foreign Worker funding and project implemented by the ECLC, as well as the commencement of immigration outreach clinics. Moreover, she is a shining example of pro bono legal service working to “right situations where she discovered wrongdoing for those unable to adequately fend for themselves.”