The 2004
Distinguished Service
Awards
March 12, 2004
The Westin Hotel Calgary

Recognizing Distinguished Service by Lawyers to the Legal Profession, to the Community and in Legal Scholarship

A Joint Presentation of the Law Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association Alberta Branch
Peter L. Freeman, QC - Distinguished Service to the Profession

Peter Freeman has made numerous and far-reaching contributions to the legal profession over the past 15 years. He was admitted to the Law Society of Manitoba in 1962, to the Law Society of Alberta in 1972, and was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1990. Peter was secretary/executive director of the Law Society of Alberta from 1989 until his retirement in 2001. During this time he gained the confidence of the benchers, staff, the officers of the Deputy Minister and the Minister of Justice for Alberta, and built valuable relationships with other law societies.

He was instrumental in procuring amendments to the Legal Profession Act, thereby streamlining the society’s discipline process. Peter participated in the founding of the Legal Education Society of Alberta, the practice review service and helped to modernize the provincial law library system. Peter was an enthusiastic proponent of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and was involved with the Western Law Societies initiative, a precursor to national mobility.

Peter has been recognized by the University of Alberta for his role as a builder of the faculty of law, and as chief librarian and director of libraries. He has been a member of the Board of Governors of St. Mary’s College in Calgary since 1996, most recently, as its chair. Since the establishment of the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CANLII) 10 years ago, Peter has been secretary-treasurer and the Law Society of Alberta’s representative on the board.

Audrey Dean - Distinguished Service to the Community

Prior to law school Audrey completed a Masters of Social Work degree and worked as a social worker. Called to the bar in 1987 she worked in the family and education fields of the Alberta government before joining the Human Rights and Citizenship Commission where she is currently senior counsel. Over the last decade, Audrey has moderated and litigated many important human rights cases. She has spoken at many conferences and to a wide variety of community groups on different areas of the law including, human rights, employment law and education law. She has written articles for publication, has made presentations to CASHRA (Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies) and is actively involved with the legal council group.

Audrey assisted in the development of the Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act and has been involved in the development of many other provincial statutes and regulations. Audrey’s distinguished service to the community includes her work in the public legal education field (ex. Legal Resource Centre’s Speaker’s Bureau, Law Day) and her work as a board member to a variety of organizations (ex. Alberta School Attendance Board, Planned Parenthood, and the Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Education). Audrey has mentored and taught both law and social work students. She also mentors many young lawyers and international students from the English as a Second Language program at the University of Alberta.

Donna M. Hallett - Distinguished Service to the Community

Called to the Alberta bar in 1992, Donna Hallett began volunteering with the Community Crisis Society providing housing to staff and volunteers on legal matters. She joined the board of directors in 1993 and was chair in 1996 and 1999. When the society built their own facility for the shelter, Donna was the driving force on the building committee through the planning and construction phases, contributing over 750 volunteer hours in one year. She represented the society on the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters (ACWS).

Donna is a very active member of her community, participating in local service clubs and charities including Ducks Unlimited. She has also served on the board of directors for the local Chamber of Commerce and Regional Victim Services Society, and has presented seminars relating to family law, including the Calgary branch of the Canadian Bar Association. She frequently acts as a judge for the Ipswich International Law Meet Court Competition.

Donna is a member of Family Law in Canada, the Association of Collaborative Family Lawyers in Calgary and the Alberta Round Table on Family Law. She is currently a family lawyer at Gelt and Associates.

Douglas H. Mitchell, QC - Distinguished Service to the Community

Douglas Mitchell has made significant contributions to both the provincial and municipal communities. Called to the Alberta bar in 1963, he began his career with Howard Mackie, now Bonar, Mackie, Partners, specializing in corporate and commercial law. He is now national co-champion and regional managing partner for the firm. He was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1987 and through the years has worked for decades on many issues of importance. He has been involved in a number of not-for-profit organizations including Ducks Unlimited. He has also served as chair of the Alberta Economic Development Authority and as chair and a member of several government committees.

Douglas was instrumental in establishing the Borden Ladner Gervais Awards annually honouring Canada’s top collegiate athletes in Calgary. He established and serves as chair of the annual Global Business Forum held in Banff, a conference drawing over 200 executives from around the world.

Currently he is chair of the Board of Governors of SAIT and chair of the Campbell McLaurin Foundation for Hearing Deficiencies.

Nigel Bankes - Distinguished Service to Legal Scholarship

Nigel Bankes is recognized as a leading scholar in the areas of natural resources law (including oil and gas law), international environmental law, and aboriginal law. Over the last 20 years at the University of Calgary he has made substantial contributions to each of these fields in graduate and undergraduate teaching, and in research. Nigel has published extensively in all of these areas and has a special interest in marine legal issues.

The highlight of his academic scholarship is as impressive as the frequency of his publications. Nigel has been involved in a number of not-for-profit organizations including, the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, Calgary Legal Guidance and as a contributor to continuing legal education activities including those sponsored by various subsections of the Canadian Bar Association and by the Legal Education Society of Alberta. Nigel was called to the Alberta bar in 1998.