

## **Courting Confidence Preserving Trust in Judicial Independence**

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
8:30am – 2:00pm

Fairmont Château Laurier  
1 Rideau Street, Ottawa, ON  
Ballroom

8:30 **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

9:15 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
Steeves Bujold, President, Canadian Bar Association

9:20 **Keynote Address**  
The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C.  
Chief Justice of Canada

9:35 **Crisis of Confidence: The Role of Media & An Informed Public in Upholding Democratic Institutions**

Judicial independence is a matter of trust. Appropriate media coverage of judicial rulings, as well as education and knowledge are at the core of this public trust – a trust that is essential to Canada's justice system. At the same time, the right to comment on and even criticize the legal system and decisions of the courts is part of our democratic process. But when does the message turn from education to disinformation and begin to harm public confidence in the judicial system?

Our distinguished panel of judges and media experts will discuss the importance of free speech and the right to criticize legal decisions, while examining what can be done in a free and democratic society to counteract the negative effects of the spread of disinformation.

**Moderator** Jennifer Ditchburn

**Panel** The Honourable Glenn D. Joyal  
Chief Justice of Court of the King's Bench Manitoba

Patrick Bourbeau  
Vice-President, Legal Affairs, La Presse and President, Canadian Media Lawyers' Association

Althia Raj  
Toronto Star

10:35 **Questions and Answers**

10:45 **Health Break**

11:00 **Strengthening Judicial Independence**

Judicial independence is for the benefit of citizens, not judges. But threats to it in an era of polarization and underfunded justice can sow seeds of doubt in the judiciary's ability to deliver high standards of fair and impartial justice. To address these challenges, our panel will share their insights on how judicial independence can be preserved and strengthened. They will explore solutions that support a better functioning justice system and ways to promote greater public trust in the judiciary.

**Moderator** Jennifer Ditchburn

**Panel** The Honourable Marie-Anne Paquette  
Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec

The Honourable Michael Tulloch  
Chief Justice of Ontario

The Honourable Paul Favel  
Federal Court of Canada

The Honourable Michèle Monast  
President, Canadian Superior Court Judges Association (CSCJA)

12:00 **Questions and Answers**

12:15 **Closing Remarks**

12:20 **Luncheon with Indigenous Celebrations**  
*(to be served in the Laurier Room)*