



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**May 7, 2009 – For immediate release**

### **DEATH OF CHIEF JUDGE HUGH STANSFIELD**

Vancouver - Acting Chief Judge James Threlfall of the Provincial Court of British Columbia regrets to announce the death this afternoon of Chief Judge Hugh Stansfield at the age of 57.

In 2003, Judge Stansfield was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells. Through ongoing treatment, however, he continued to serve as Chief Judge until last week.

Judge Stansfield was admitted to Vancouver General Hospital on May 2, 2009.

Hugh Campbell Stansfield was appointed on July 1, 2005, to a five-year term as Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

After graduating from the University of British Columbia's law school in 1979, Stansfield was called to the bar in 1980 and practiced in civil, family, and criminal litigation. He was appointed to the Provincial Court on May 6, 1993. Judge Stansfield began his service in Vancouver but later moved to the Okanagan District. In 1998, he was appointed Associate Chief Judge and became a member of the Judicial Council in 2001.

Throughout his years on the Bench, Judge Stansfield presided in all three areas of Provincial Court jurisdiction: civil, family, and criminal. Judge Stansfield also served as chair of the Judges' Education Committee. He was frequently a presenter in judicial education both in B.C. and across Canada through the National Judicial Institute.

During his tenure, Chief Judge Stansfield was active in implementing innovative methods of delivering justice, including the recent opening of Vancouver's

Downtown Community Court. Chief Judge Stansfield is also well known for improving media access to the provincial court system. As the "face of the court" in British Columbia, he made frequent and regular media appearances.

"We all knew that Hugh had cancer, but he wouldn't let it prevent him from carrying out his duties to the court and public," said Judge Threlfall. "He fought his illness all the way. Hugh brought to the Court incredible energy, commitment, and strength of character. Since becoming Chief Judge, Hugh worked to make BC's court system more accessible and open than ever before. By every possible measure, he was a dear friend and exceptional judge, and we're going to miss him."

Hugh Stansfield is survived by his wife Jo-Ann and four sons, Colin (and his wife Connie), David, Patrick, and Matthew.

Media Contact:  
Norman Stowe  
604-646-3556  
604-788-3311 (cell)