

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 1996

RECIPIENT OF 1996 PRESIDENT'S AWARD NAMED

OTTAWA - Robert Guy Smethurst, Q.C., of Vancouver, has been named the recipient of the Canadian Bar Association's President's Award. Smethurst will be presented with the award at the Council luncheon on August 24 during the Association's Annual Meeting in Vancouver(Aug. 25-29).

"The award honours Bob Smethurst's contributions to the legal and service to the Canadian Bar Association," says President Gordon Proudfoot, Q.C., of Dartmouth.

Born in Calgary in 1929, Smethurst was called to the Manitoba Bar in 1953 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1968. From 1954 to 1983, he practised in Winnipeg, serving as managing partner of D'Arcy Deacon for nearly 20 years. In 1983, he was named President of the Canadian Bar Insurance Association. From 1987 until his retirement this year, he served as Executive Director of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association in Vancouver.

Smethurst served at senior levels in numerous legal and community organizations, including the presidency of: Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada; Manitoba Bar Association; CBA-Manitoba Branch; Uniform Law Conference of Canada; and Estate Planning Council of Winnipeg. He was a member of the Manitoba Law Reform Commission for nine years, Chairman of the Special Committee on Prepaid Legal Services, and a Director of the Prepaid Legal Services Institute of Canada for five years. He served on special committees whose work directly led to the passage of provincial legislation for compensating victims of crime and the establishment of the Manitoba Law Reform Commission.

The President's Award recognizes outstanding achievement in the areas of legal proficiency, legal scholarship, the legal profession, the law, the CBA and public life. The award will be presented on Saturday, August 24, at the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre (VTCC), Rooms 11 and 12, during the Council luncheon. The event is open to accredited journalists who have registered with the CBA Media Centre at the VTCC (Room 18).

The Canadian Bar Association is dedicated to improvement in the law and the administration of justice. Some 34,000 lawyers, judges, notaries, law teachers, and law students from across Canada are members.

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