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Contact: Edward Keyes
or Allison R. Myers
506-452-7818
Cell 471-4510

CBA New Brunswick Recognizes New Brunswick Lawyers and Judge for Contributions

Caraquet – At its MidWinter Meeting the New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA-NB) will recognize the outstanding contributions to the legal profession with the presentation of its *Distinguished Service Award* to the Honourable Madam Justice Margaret E.L. Larlee, of the New Brunswick Court of Appeal in Fredericton. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the province’s legal profession and contributions of significant law-related benefit to the residents of New Brunswick.

In presenting its *Distinguished Service Award* to the Honourable Madam Justice Larlee, the Canadian Bar Association recognizes her contributions to the development of the law in the province. She has been a catalyst in developing a relationship between the judiciary and the Law Faculties in New Brunswick. The Honourable Madam Justice Larlee is committed to contributing to the intellectual and professional development of students and has been instrumental in developing successful programs such as the student internship at the Court of Appeal. She graciously continues to share her expertise and to encourage colleagues to share their expertise, through a variety of initiatives including Court based programs put on by the National Judicial Institute and the Court’s lunch and learn program. She has been an active participant in the continuing education programs of the CBA, both nationally and locally, and has researched and written for a number of journals. The Honourable Madam Justice Larlee is the first woman to be appointed to the Court of Queen’s Bench in New Brunswick and the first woman to be appointed to the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick. She has made significant contributions to the Canadian Bar Association by serving on the Solicitor’s Journal Board and by speaking at many of its CLE programs, including the launch of the Women Lawyers Forum and family law education sessions, where she wrote the papers Commentaire d’arrêt: Pecore c. Pecore and Shared Custody in Contino: A Definitive Response.

CBA Branch President Edward Keyes praised the Honourable Madam Justice Larlee as an *“exceptional role model and mentor to others including lawyers and law students alike. She is dedicated to her profession and the development of the law therein, as well as serving the public. She accomplishes this and much more with integrity and discipline. The Honourable Madam Justice Larlee’s intelligence, efficiency and competence are apparent in her work. Her impact on the legal profession and New Brunswickers as a whole is truly significant.”*

The CBA-NB *Pro Bono Award* recognizes outstanding *pro bono* legal services to the community. At the MidWinter Meeting of the New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Bar Association the outstanding contributions of six provincial lawyers will be recognized.

These lawyers are members of the Access to Family Justice Task Force, appointed by the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Thomas J. Burke. The Task Force, headed by The Honourable Mr. Justice Raymond J. Guerette, includes award recipients Michelle Boudreau-Dumas of Campbellton, Sheila Cameron of Moncton, Jennifer Donovan of Fredericton, Mary-Eileen Flanagan of Saint John, David Lutz, Q.C. of Hampton and Brenda Noble, Q.C. of Saint John.

The mandate of the Task Force for Access to Family Justice was to undertake a review of the family court system and then make recommendations to the government of New Brunswick. The recommendations, to be released shortly, are expected to lead to more timely access to justice in resolving family law disputes, expanded use of alternatives to the family court to resolve family law issues and increased access to legal information and legal assistance in family law matters.

CBA (New Brunswick) President Edward Keyes expressed that *“each member of the Task Force was chosen for their dedication and commitment to improving access to family justice in New Brunswick. The work of the Task Force was intense and thorough involving numerous meetings and travel. Each member of the Task Force contributed well over 100 pro bono hours to this very important endeavour. It is anticipated that the work of the Task Force will lead to significant changes in the family court system in New Brunswick”*.

The awards will be presented on February 6th, 2009 at the President’s Dinner which is a part of the CBA-NB’s Midwinter meeting activities at the Centre Culturel in Caraquet, NB.

The Canadian Bar Association is dedicated to improvement in the law and the administration of justice. Some 37,000 lawyers, notaries, law teachers and law students from across Canada are members. There are 1600 members in New Brunswick.

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The awards will be presented at the President’s Banquet on the evening of Friday, February 6th 2009 at the Centre Culturel, 220 Saint-Pierre West Blvd in Caraquet, New Brunswick.