

May 30, 2007

### **New judges named to the Provincial Court of Alberta**

Edmonton... An Assistant Chief Judge and three new judges have been appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta.

Judge Daniel Pahl has been named as the new Assistant Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta for Edmonton Rural. Justina Filice has been appointed to Edmonton Provincial Court Family and Youth, Vaughn Myers, QC, to Edmonton Provincial Court Criminal, and Barbara Veldhuis to Calgary Provincial Court Criminal.

"The wide range of knowledge and experience of each of these individuals will be an asset to the Provincial Court of Alberta," said Ron Stevens, QC, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. "I am confident Judge Pahl will continue the excellent leadership that Edmonton Rural enjoyed under Assistant Chief Judge Maher and that the new appointees will continue their success in their new role."

#### **Judge Daniel Pahl**

was appointed to the Provincial Court in 2002. Prior to his appointment, he was a senior partner in the firm of Cleall Pahl, practising civil, criminal, commercial and family law, as well as acting as a special prosecutor for the federal Justice department. He obtained his law degree from the University of Alberta in 1971 and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1988. He will take over from Assistant Chief Judge John Maher effective immediately.

Judges are appointed to serve as Assistant Chief for five-year terms. Judge Maher has served as Assistant Chief Judge for Edmonton Rural since 2002 and will continue to serve as a full-time judge in Edmonton Rural.

#### **Justina Maria Filice**

is appointed to Edmonton Provincial Court Family and Youth. She graduated law school from the University of Alberta in 1984. In private practice with Smith Bresee since 1985, then Corbett Smith Bresee LLP, she maintained a general practice with a focus on civil litigation and family law. She was a founding member of the Collaborative Family Lawyers of Alberta. Her appointment is effective June 4.

#### **Vaughn Herman Myers, QC**

, is appointed to Edmonton Provincial Court Criminal. He received his law degree from the University of Alberta in 1981 and his Master of Laws, with a focus on Advanced Constitutional and Criminal Law, in 1984. In private practice since 1984, he practised primarily criminal law as well as working on an ad hoc basis as Crown counsel for both provincial and federal prosecution services. His appointment is effective June 8.

#### **Barbara Lea Veldhuis**

, is appointed to Calgary Provincial Court Criminal. She received her law degree from the University of Alberta in 1987. She has worked extensively in the area of criminal law, both in private practice as defence counsel, and as a prosecutor for both the federal and provincial governments. She was named Chair of the Law Enforcement Review Board in May 2007. Her appointment is effective June 15.

The Alberta Judicial Council screens all candidates for Provincial Court appointments and forwards a list of

recommended applicants to the Provincial Court Nominating Committee.

The Judicial Council has representatives from the Alberta Court of Appeal, Court of Queen's Bench, Alberta Provincial Court and the Law Society of Alberta. It also includes two members appointed by the Minister of Justice.

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee then interviews candidates from the list provided by the Judicial Council and in turn recommends to the Minister of Justice the names of those appointees felt to be of the highest calibre.

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee was established in 1999 and is made up of 11 members appointed by the Minister of Justice. It has representatives from the Alberta Provincial Court, the Law Society of Alberta, the Canadian Bar Association (Alberta Branch), other members from the legal profession, and the public.

Judicial appointments are approved by Order in Council.

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