

January 16, 2008

New Alberta deputy chief judge to help improve courts system

Two new judges also appointed to Provincial Court of Alberta

Edmonton... Judge Allan Lefever has been appointed deputy chief judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta, a newly created position to help Alberta's court system become the most innovative and progressive in Canada.

Among other duties, Judge Lefever will assist Chief Judge Gail Vickery in establishing more specialized courts such as a mental health court pilot project in Edmonton, and will work closely with the Crown prosecutors' office in their efforts to make the criminal justice system more accessible and efficient.

"Judge Lefever has demonstrated tremendous skills as a leader and advocate for a strong justice system during his time as assistant chief judge of Edmonton provincial court criminal," said Deputy Premier and Justice Minister and Attorney General Ron Stevens. "I have no doubt that he will continue this on a province-wide level."

Additionally, two new judges have been appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta.

Leslie Ronald Grieve has been appointed to Calgary Provincial Court Criminal/Regional, and Donna Rae Valgardson, Q.C. has been appointed to Edmonton Provincial Court Criminal.

"I am pleased to welcome these outstanding individuals to their new positions," said Stevens. "Their wide range of knowledge, education and professional experience will help provide excellent leadership, and their appointments mean Albertans will benefit from improved access to justice."

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 committee then interviews candidates from the list and recommends the names of those appointees felt to be of the highest calibre to the Minister of Justice.

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

Media inquiries may be directed to:

David Dear

Alberta Justice Communications

780-427-8530

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

January 16, 2008

Biographies of deputy chief judge and Provincial Court appointees

Judge Allan Lefever

Judge Allan Lefever has served as Assistant Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta for Edmonton Criminal since 2004. He graduated law school from the University of Alberta in 1971. Prior to his appointment to the Provincial Court in 2000, he was a partner with Reynolds, Mirth, Richards & Farmer in Edmonton. Judge Lefever was appointed Queen's Council in 1998.

Donna Rae Valgardson, Q.C.

Donna Rae Valgardson, Q.C. graduated law school from the University of Alberta in 1976. With the Department of Justice Canada since 1977 as a criminal litigator, she worked in a number of capacities including prosecutor, group head Criminal Prosecutions Section and General Counsel. In 2002, she was one of three Edmonton Regional Office lawyers awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal, and in 2004, she was appointed Queen's Counsel. Her judicial appointment is effective February 4.

Leslie Ronald Grieve

Leslie Ronald Grieve graduated law school from Dalhousie University in 1977. In Nova Scotia, he worked with the Halifax Police Department and served as a RCMP Special Constable and as a member of the Dalhousie University Board of Governors. In 1980, he joined the Calgary Crown Prosecutor's Office and, in 28 years as a trial lawyer, appeared in all levels of court in Alberta. His appointment is effective January 28.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

David Dear
Alberta Justice Communications
780-427-8530

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Justice and Attorney General Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2008 Government of Alberta