

October 28, 2010

Two new judges appointed to the Provincial Court

Edmonton... Two new judges have been appointed to the Provincial Court of Alberta.

Paul Jeffrey Mason has been appointed to Calgary Criminal Court effective November 15. Michael Savaryn has been appointed to the Edmonton Family and Youth Court effective November 4.

"I'm pleased to welcome Mr. Mason and Mr. Savaryn to their new positions," said Alison Redford, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. "I am confident that the experience and background they bring with them will provide strong leadership to the Provincial Court Bench."

Mason graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Wales in 1991. After admission to the Bar in Alberta in 1992, and admission to the Law Society of England and Wales in 1993, he practiced law in London with a focus on personal injury cases, intellectual property and commercial disputes. In 1998 he joined the firm of Parlee McLaws in Calgary as a senior associate and served as co-counsel for the Samson Cree Nation at the fatality inquiry of Connie and Ty Jacobs, a prominent case in Alberta. Mason then established his own practice specializing in civil litigation. Since 2001 he has been a Crown Prosecutor in Calgary and was appointed in 2010 as the Assistant Chief Crown Prosecutor for Domestic Violence.

Upon graduation from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Law in 1980, Savaryn joined his father Peter to form the firm Savaryn & Savaryn in Edmonton. Following his father's retirement in 1991, he continued the practice with a focus on family law, particularly representing children in Youth Court and child welfare matters. From 1995-1998, Savaryn served as a Catholic School Board Trustee and Vice-Chair of the Edmonton Catholic School Board. In 2003, he was appointed by the Alberta Minister of Justice as a member of the Unified Family Court Implementation Steering Committee.

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 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. The 11 members are appointed by the Minister of Justice and represent 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.

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