

July 26, 2011

New judges appointed to the Provincial Court

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

William Steven Andrew, Q.C., has been appointed to Edmonton Family and Youth Court, effective August 2; Michael Christopher Dinkel, Q.C., to Calgary Criminal Court, effective August 2; and Janet Lynn Dixon, Q.C., to Edmonton Criminal Court, effective August 29.

"These three appointees come from a broad range of legal backgrounds: criminal defense, family and administrative law," said Verlyn Olson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. "Each of these individuals is highly respected in the profession and in their communities. They have demonstrated a commitment to professional development through participation in the areas of legal education and mentorship, and I welcome them to their new positions."

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. 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.

-30-

Backgrounder: New judges' biographies

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Estella Petzold
Justice Communications
780-427-2646

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

July 26, 2011

New judges' biographies

W. Steven Andrew, Q.C.

W. Steven Andrew graduated from the University of Alberta in 1976. In 1980, Andrew started a partnership (Andrew & Donahoe), which ultimately became Andrew Engels and Oake LLP where he practiced primarily family law for the next 27 years. From 1983 to 1988 Andrew served as an *Ad Hoc* Prosecutor for the Attorney General of Alberta. He became a sole practitioner in 2007, practicing primarily family law with three associates. He has served as both a chair and panelist for various Legal Education Society of Alberta seminars and is an active member of the Canadian Bar Association. Andrew was a volunteer member of the Board of Directors of Edmonton's Food Bank from May 2002 until May 2009, is currently a volunteer Board member for CKUA Radio Foundation, and was appointed a Sitting Justice of the Peace in January of 2009.

Michael Dinkel, Q.C.

Michael Dinkel is a third-generation Calgarian who received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of British Columbia in 1984 and a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Birmingham (England) in 1987. Admitted to the Law Society of Alberta in 1989, Dinkel spent most of his career as a sole practitioner devoting his practice almost exclusively to criminal defence work. He has volunteered his time to the Legal Aid Society of Alberta for many years, most recently serving as a member of the Board of Directors. Prior to his appointment, Dinkel was the President of the Calgary Criminal Defence Lawyers Association (CDLA) and sat on numerous court-related committees. Since 2008 he has been the Alberta Defence Bar Representative on the Court Case Management Project, an initiative which is dedicated to increasing public confidence in the justice system and improving access to justice for all Albertans.

Janet Dixon, Q.C.

Janet Dixon graduated from the University of Alberta in 1983. She began her legal career at Nickerson, Roberts & Hilborn, working in the areas of criminal and civil litigation. In 1988 she joined the firm of G. Brent Gawne & Associates where she gained experience in administrative law. In 1993, as a sole practitioner, she continued in administrative law until 2000 when she joined the Law Society of Alberta as counsel. Dixon has volunteered as an instructor at the Legal Education Society of Alberta as well as a mentor with the Canadian Bar Association Mentoring Program with students at the University of Alberta. She is a guest lecturer and has presented at numerous society events and educational institutions across the province on topics such as managing risk, advocacy, and professional responsibility.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Estella Petzold
Justice Communications
780-427-2646

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Justice and Attorney General Home](#)

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2011 Government of Alberta

