

QUEEN'S COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS

Robert J. M. Adkins (Winnipeg) – Adkins was called to the Manitoba bar in 1974. He is a partner in the firm of Thompson Dorfman Sweatman. He has a diverse law practice, focusing on commercial real estate, real estate development, commercial leasing, municipal law, zoning, property assessment, administrative law and general litigation. Over the past 25 years, he has developed considerable expertise in natural resource development and Indigenous law, particularly consultation and negotiations with First Nations and Indigenous communities and groups. He has been honoured with awards from the Tataskweyak Cree Nation, the O Picon Na Piwin Cree Nation and the Keeseekoowenin First Nation. Adkins is a former lecturer in municipal and planning law at the University of Manitoba and occasional lecturer for the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice on the topic of independence.

J. Douglas Deans (Dauphin) – Deans was called to the Manitoba bar in 1975. He has practised law for 43 years with the firm of Johnston & Company in Dauphin. His practice has been that of a general practitioner and during the initial years of practice was involved in both civil and criminal litigation. For the last 12 years, he has concentrated his practice on real estate, estates and wills, corporate and commercial law. Deans has been involved with a number of professional organizations including eight years as the representative of the Dauphin Judicial District with the Manitoba Bar Association, vice-chair of the Prairie Mountain District Council for Boy Scouts of Canada, member of the Dauphin Committee of Ducks Unlimited Canada, member of the board of directors of the Dauphin Golf and Country Club, member of the board of the Dauphin Public Library and member of the board of the Parkland Regional Library. He is currently chair of the Dauphin General Hospital Foundation board.

Michael D. Werier (Winnipeg) – Werier was called to the Manitoba bar in 1976. He was a partner in various firms including D'Arcy & Deacon LLP until Jan. 1, 2017, when he continued in private practice as Michael Werier Law Corporation. His earlier years of practice were devoted primarily to litigation, all aspects of health-care law, First Nation law, and labour and employment law. His arbitration and mediation practice commenced in 2002, and he is an arbitrator and mediator in both the public and private sector. Werier's professional involvement includes being chairperson of the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, vice-chair of the Manitoba Labour Board, chairperson of the Legislative Review Committee of Manitoba, chairperson of the Judicial Compensation Committee and chief adjudicator, Manitoba Human Rights Code.

Gail G. MacAulay (Winnipeg) – MacAulay was called to the Manitoba bar in 1980. She is a staff attorney with Legal Aid Manitoba at the Winnipeg Duty Counsel Office, and currently handles front-line legal services for adults in custody. Previously, she handled criminal, family, poverty law cases and child protection cases in remote communities with Northlands Community Legal Services in The Pas. In 2017, MacAulay was inducted into the Bertha Wilson Honour Society, an award from the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University, which recognizes alumni who best emulate the late Madam Justice Bertha Wilson from the Supreme Court of Canada through their contributions to law and society. MacAulay has been involved in several community organizations including the Ellen Douglass Access and Integration Foundation, the Canadian and Manitoba Down Syndrome Societies, the Access Advisory Committee, City of Winnipeg, Family Advocates for Students with Special Needs in the Winnipeg School Division, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Pennies from Heaven, The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis and The Pas Friendship Centre.

James A. Ripley (Winnipeg) – Ripley was called to the Manitoba bar in 1981. He joined Thompson Dorfman Sweatman in 1980 as an articling student and has been at the firm since that time. He is currently general counsel to the firm and chair of its Management Committee. Previously, he had a general corporate and commercial practice, which included banking and finance, real estate and development, and advising a number of regulatory entities. Ripley is involved in community organizations, including as chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land, vice-chair of the council (board) of St. John's College, a constituent college of the University of Manitoba, and a member of the board of the J.W. Dafoe Foundation. He is the former honorary counsel of The Manitoba Museum, a former vice-chair of the board of the Winnipeg Art Gallery and a former director of the Arthritis Society (Manitoba/Nunavut division) and of St. John's-Ravenscourt School Foundation Inc.

T. David Gisser (Winnipeg) – Gisser was called to the Manitoba bar in 1982 after graduating from McGill University Law School with civil and common law degrees in 1977. He received his master of law from Osgoode Hall Law School, specializing in administrative law, in 2012. Since joining the Legal Services Branch of Manitoba Justice in 1985, he has served as legal counsel to a wide variety of administrative boards, tribunals, agencies, commissions and other decision-makers. On their behalf, he has conducted judicial review and appellate litigation at all levels of court in Manitoba and the Supreme Court of Canada. He was seconded as vice-chair of the Municipal Board of Manitoba from 2007 to 2010, and was appointed general counsel with Manitoba Justice in 2013. Gisser has been a frequent speaker and presenter for a wide variety of legal education conferences and seminars, has taught a course in clinical administrative law at the University of Manitoba's faculty of law for the last 16 years and has acted as principal for the students articling in the Legal Services Branch since 2014. He has also been involved in numerous community activities that have included serving as the president of Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, as a member of the federal Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security, and as a member of the executive committee and board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.

James E. McLandress (Winnipeg) – McLandress was called to the Manitoba bar in 1989. He joined the Winnipeg Airport Authority (WAA) in 2014 and currently serves as its general counsel. He has over 16 years in leadership roles as general counsel at two complex corporations, including the WAA, involving global business, government and regulatory oversight, public policy and politics. He also has 11 years in private practice and more than 20 years' experience as director or trustee in various boardroom settings. McLandress has also been involved in community and professional organizations including chair of the board of directors of St. Mary's Academy, chair of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre board of trustees, president of the Law Society of Manitoba, life council member of the Manitoba Bar Association, and co-chair of the Manitoba Chapter, Institute of Corporate Directors.

Sharon Kravetsky (Winnipeg) – Kravetsky was called to the Manitoba bar in 1990. She is currently a partner at Taylor McCaffrey LLP. She practices in the area of family law including mediation and collaborative law. Kravetsky has been involved with professional associations including as a member of the Planning Committee for the National Judicial Institute for the development of an educational program for newer judges, member of the President's Special Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services of the Law Society, member of the Practice and Ethics Committee of the Law Society, member of the Family Law Matters Legal Fees Advisory Committee of the Law Society, vice-president of the National Family Section of the Canadian Bar Association and member of the Family Subsection of the Manitoba Bar Association. She is also a member of the Access to Justice Family Law Working Group.

Roberta Campbell (Winnipeg) – Campbell was called to the Manitoba bar in 1995. She is general counsel at Campbell Gunn Inness Seib. She practises criminal law. Campbell is past-president of the Law Society of Manitoba, member of the Manitoba Bar Association and founding member and past-chair of the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted (Manitoba).

Harold (Sonny) Cochrane (Winnipeg) – Cochrane was called to the Manitoba bar in 1996. He is a Cree lawyer who grew up on the Fisher River Cree Nation and has deep connections to the Indigenous community. He is the first Cree lawyer appointed Queen's counsel in Manitoba. In 2017, after 21 years of legal practice, he opened Cochrane Saxberg LLP, Manitoba's largest Indigenous law firm. He practices in the areas of Indigenous law, business law, employment law and child protection law. Cochrane has been involved with professional associations including past board member of the United Way of Winnipeg, past member of the United Way of Winnipeg's Aboriginal Relations Council and past board member of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce. He is a regular presenter at the Law Society and to various organizations on Indigenous law issues. Cochrane is regularly retained by Métis and First Nation governments for business development initiatives, land claim settlements, child welfare issues and self government/jurisdictional matters. His advice is also sought on matters related to the treaties and Canada's constitutional framework in relation to Indigenous people.