

## IN RECOGNITION

This section is devoted to recognizing the achievements of members of the judiciary, current and former members of Convocation, as well as individuals who have made significant contributions to the Law Society and its efforts to advance the cause of justice and promote greater access to legal services.

### ORDER OF CANADA FOR IAN BINNIE

**THE HON. IAN CORNEIL BINNIE, C.C., Q.C., WAS MADE A COMPANION** of the Order of Canada at an investiture ceremony in Ottawa in November (2012). He was appointed for his contributions to the legal profession, notably as a justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, and for his commitment to legal education and the rule of law. At the formal dinner that followed, he was also awarded The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which honours significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

Mr. Binnie served nearly 14 years as a Supreme Court justice, retiring in 2011. During his time on the top court, he authored more than 170 opinions, including on landmark cases involving issues of patent interpretation and validity, protection of trademarks, media law and commercial disputes.


In 1998, Mr. Binnie was appointed directly to the Supreme Court of Canada while he was a senior litigation partner at McCarthy Tétrault. He had served as Associate Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada in 1982.

In 2012, Mr. Binnie joined the Toronto litigation boutique Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP. In the role of counsel, he shares strategic and practical advice and his dispute resolution



The Hon. Ian C. Binnie, C.C., Q.C., (left) with His Excellency The Right Hon. David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada.

expertise to colleagues and firm clients. He is also a resident arbitrator at Arbitration Place in Toronto.

The Order of Canada is one of the highest civilian honours. It was established in 1967, during Canada's centennial year, to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to community and service to the nation. 

### ORDER OF ONTARIO AND QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL FOR JOHN HONSBERGER

**JOHN D. HONSBERGER, O.Ont., Q.C., LSM, WAS** invested to the Order of Ontario and presented The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in February. Mr. Honsberger was awarded the Order of Ontario for his seminal contributions to legal education, history and community service, and the Diamond Jubilee Medal on the recommendation of The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

A widely respected lawyer specializing in bankruptcy and insolvency law, Mr. Honsberger has been a practising lawyer for 63 years. He has written about law and history for more than 35 years and has published hundreds of journal articles. He was the founding and only editor of the *Law Society Gazette* for 28 years (1967–1995) and is the author of the book *Osgoode Hall: An Illustrated History* (2004) and co-author of *Bankruptcy in Canada* (2009). He was a founding director of The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History.

Mr. Honsberger, 90, still walks to the Raymond & Honsberger office almost every day. He attended Osgoode




John D. Honsberger, O.Ont., Q.C., LSM (right)

Hall law school after serving with the Canadian army in Europe during the Second World War. He entered the army with the rank of gunner and retired with the rank of captain at the age of 23.

In 1999, Convocation attached his name to the Law Society Archives' Reading Room in honour of his contribution to preserving Ontario's legal history. The John D. Honsberger Reading Room is used by legal researchers, writers and historians throughout the year.

Mr. Honsberger's writing on insolvency matters was recently recognized by the International Insolvency Institute. In 2012,

the institute began collecting his writing, correspondence and other materials on insolvency for the creation of an online library to be known as the "Honsberger Collection".

Mr. Honsberger was the first recipient of the inaugural Law Society Medal in 1986. In 1998, he was awarded the Mundell Medal by the Attorney General of Ontario for his vast contributions to legal writing for over 50 years. 

O'CONNOR RECOGNIZED WITH ADVOCATES' SOCIETY MEDAL

THE ADVOCATES' SOCIETY MEDAL WAS PRESENTED TO THE Honourable Dennis O'Connor, Q.C., former Associate Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, at a gala dinner in February.

The event was hosted by The Advocates' Society and attended by nearly 600 guests. It featured a tribute by The Honourable Justice Eleanore A. Cronk, Court of Appeal for Ontario, and a toast by The Honourable Justice Robert P. Armstrong, Court of Appeal for Ontario. Peter H. Griffin, president of The Advocates' Society, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Mr. O'Connor led the Walkerton Inquiry (2000–02) and the Arar Inquiry (2004–06) and acted as chief negotiator for the federal government in the Yukon Indian Land Claim (1980–84). He was appointed Magistrate in the Yukon Territory and sat as a Deputy Magistrate of the Northwest Territories (1973–76).


Appointed to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in 1998, Mr. O'Connor sat for 14 years, when, in 2001, he became the Associate Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

Mr. O'Connor retired from the Bench at the end of 2012 and recently re-joined the Toronto office of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP as counsel—the firm where he practised a broad range of litigation from 1980 to 1998 when the firm name was Borden & Elliot.



The Honourable Dennis O'Connor, Q.C. (right) with The Advocates' Society president, Peter H. Griffin.

He served as an elected bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada (1987-95). He graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1964 and was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1966. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1980. He has been awarded honorary Doctors of Law from the University of Guelph (2011), Assumption University (2008), York University (2007) and the University of Western Ontario (2003).

The Advocates' Society Medal is the highest expression of esteem that The Advocates' Society can convey to one of its members. 

FORMER TREASURER SYDNEY ROBINS INVESTED IN ORDER OF ONTARIO



THE HONOURABLE SYDNEY L. ROBINS, O.ONT., Q.C., LSM, former Treasurer of the Law Society, was invested to the Order of Ontario and awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal at a ceremony in February.

A prominent figure in Ontario's legal

profession for more than 60 years, Mr. Robins served as a special lecturer on torts at Osgoode Hall Law School (1948–60), and participated in many continuing legal education sessions for the Law Society. Mr. Robins was first elected a bencher in 1961 and served as Treasurer for a three-year term (1971–74). He was recognized by the Law Society with an honorary LLD in 1981, and the Law Society Medal in 2000.

In 1976, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Ontario, and, in 1981, to the Court of Appeal for Ontario. As a judge, Mr. Robins authored many decisions cited frequently in courts across the country. He retired from the bench in 1998.

Appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1962, Mr. Robins attended Harvard Law School on scholarship and received his Master of Laws degree in 1948. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1947 after graduating from Osgoode Hall Law School.

He has written landmark reports, including an advisory opinion on the issue of compensation for the wrongfully convicted in the matter of Steven Truscott for the Ontario government (2008), and the report *Protecting Our Students: A review to identify and prevent sexual misconduct in Ontario schools* (2000).

The founding chair of the Law Foundation of Ontario was a senior partner in the Toronto firm of Robins & Robins, where he practised corporate, commercial and labour law. The Advocates' Society named him one of 50 remarkable Ontario advocates who practised between 1950 and 2000, in the book *Learned Friends* by Jack Batten.


In 1998, Mr. Robins joined Goodmans LLP as counsel. Since 2009, he has been named in the *Best Lawyers® in Canada* peer-review list under Alternative Dispute Resolution and International Arbitration. 

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