

SAL Annual Lecture 2022

Judicial Independence and the Modern World: A Canadian Perspective

17 November 2022

7.00pm – 9.30pm

State Courts, Havelock Hall

Introduction

Judicial independence is a phrase we often use, but seldom stop to think about. It is easy to gloss over, yet it is essential to the administration of justice in most—if not all—legal systems, and certainly those based in the common law tradition.

In this lecture, the Right Honourable Richard Wagner, Chief Justice of Canada, will examine judicial independence with a modern lens. His Honour will explore the evolution of judicial independence in Canada, compare and contrast with different jurisdictions throughout the world, and examine, more broadly, why judicial independence is crucial to good justice.

His Honour will also provide brief comment on the current challenges to judicial independence posed by two major developments that forced—and are forcing—courts around the world to rapidly evolve: the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising prevalence of artificial intelligence in judicial decision-making.

Speaker



The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada

The Right Honourable Richard Wagner is the 18th Chief Justice of Canada. In this role, he presides over the Canadian Judicial Council, National Judicial Institute and chairs the Advisory Council for the Order of Canada. Chief Justice Wagner was president of the Association des Cours Constitutionnelles Francophones from 2019 to 2022. The Chief Justice also fulfilled his duty to serve as administrator of the Government of Canada from January 23 to July 26, 2021.

Born and raised in Montreal, Chief Justice Wagner earned his Bachelor of Social Science and Licentiate in Laws at the University of Ottawa. He returned to his home town to practice law from 1980 to 2004. His areas of specialization included professional liability, commercial litigation and class action lawsuits. As a litigator the Chief Justice argued cases before every level of court in Quebec, quasi-judicial tribunals, as well as the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada. Throughout his legal career, Chief Justice Wagner led initiatives to help lawyers constantly upgrade their skills and knowledge, such as the creation of the Centre d'accès à l'information juridique in 2002.

Chief Justice Wagner was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec in 2004 and was named to the Quebec Court of Appeal in 2011. On October 5, 2012, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. He was named the Court's Chief Justice on December 18, 2017. Read more [here](#).

Programme

6.30PM	Arrival of guests
7.10PM	All guests to be seated
7.15PM	Arrival of The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, and The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon
7.20PM	Opening Remarks by The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon
7.30PM	SAL Annual Lecture 2022 Judicial Independence and the Modern World: A Canadian Perspective by The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada
8.30PM	Cocktail Reception
9.30PM	End of Reception

FREE REGISTRATION (Limited Seats Available)

Register online at
store.lawnet.com

Register by
10 November 2022
or when the seats are filled