

## **The Hon. Patrick J. LeSage, Q.C., LLD**

The Hon. Patrick J. LeSage, Q.C., LLD, is a former Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice in Ontario. In February 2004 Mr. LeSage retired from the bench and joined the Toronto office of Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP as counsel in their advocacy department.

Mr. LeSage received a B.Comm from the University of Ottawa, an LL.B from Osgoode Hall Law School, and LLDs (H.C.) from both the University of Windsor and Laurentian University.

Appointed by the Government of Ontario to conduct an extensive review of Ontario's police complaints system, Mr. LeSage presented his final report to the Attorney General in 2005. It contained 27 recommendations aimed at creating a new and independent police review body that would be both equitable and effective for all. The *Independent Police Review Act, 2006*, if passed, will entrench a transparent public complaints system, centered around a new civilian organization and led by a police review director.

In December 2005, the Attorney General of Manitoba appointed Mr. LeSage to conduct an inquiry into certain aspects of the trial and conviction of James Driskell, who spent 13 years in a Manitoba prison before his conviction was quashed. Hearings began July 2006.

Before becoming Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice in Ontario in 1996, Mr. LeSage was Associate Chief Justice of what is now the Superior Court of Justice, a County and District Court Judge and Associate Chief Judge of the District Court of Ontario, an Assistant Crown Attorney in Toronto, and the Director of Crown Attorneys for Ontario.

During his more than 28 years on the Bench, Mr. LeSage was active in education programs with judicial and legal organizations, including gender and racial equality issues. He presided over many high-profile cases, including *Regina v. Paul Bernardo* and *Conrad Black v. Prime Minister Chrétien et al.*

Mr. LeSage, who describes himself as a "public servant," says that the most rewarding part of his job has been serving the public in his various roles. He is a past vice-president of the John Howard Society and a past member of the Board of the United Way, as well as a member of the Canadian Bar Association, the Advocates' Society, the Osgoode Society and the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. He also serves on the Board of Governors for York University and is a Commissioner of the Ontario Securities Commission. In 2005, Mr. LeSage was elected a Senior Fellow of Massey College, University of Toronto.

For his lifelong commitment to justice and public service through his distinguished career, including 28 years' service as a judge, Mr. LeSage was awarded the Doctor of Law (honoris causa) degree by the Law Society of Upper Canada in 2006.