

MEDIA & THE LAW:

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE
ACCESS & PUBLIC TRUST



A conference for journalists, judges, students, and justice system professionals, brought to you by the Nova Scotia Courts

FRIDAY, MAY 11 & SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018
PIER 21, HALIFAX, N.S.

FRIDAY, MAY 11 – MEDIA & THE LAW

8:00 A.M. Registration

9:00 A.M. Opening Remarks

- *The Honourable J. Michael MacDonald, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia*
-

9:30 A.M. Justice 101: Roles & Responsibilities in the Criminal Justice System

Learn about the roles and responsibilities of the organizations working in the criminal justice system, from the laying of a charge to the trial stage, and how these groups operate in relation to each other and within a democratic society.

- *Featuring: Jim Perrin, Superintendent, Criminal Investigation Division, Halifax Regional Police; Jennifer MacLellan, QC, Senior Crown Counsel, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service; Karen Endres, Managing Lawyer, Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission; The Honourable Daniel A. MacRury, Judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia*
-

10:45 A.M. Health Break

11:00 A.M. Anatomy of a Journalist: Who We Are & What We Do

Hear from journalists and journalism professors about the roles and responsibilities of the media, today's changing newsroom, the rise of citizen journalism, and the accountability of bloggers and independent media websites.

- *Featuring: Tim Bousquet, Online Journalist, Founder of Halifax Examiner; Sherri Borden Colley, Reporter/Editor, CBC News Nova Scotia; Aly Thomson, Journalist, The Canadian Press; Lisa Taylor, Assistant Professor, Ryerson School of Journalism*
-

12:30 P.M. Lunch Break & Luncheon Keynote



The Honourable Mary T. Moreau, Chief Justice of Alberta Court of Queen's Bench

Hear from the Alberta Court's first female Chief Justice about the importance of open justice and the need for a free press and an independent judiciary to work together to maintain public trust in the Canadian legal system.

FRIDAY, MAY 11 – MEDIA & THE LAW

2:00 P.M. Keeping Up with the Times: Justice in the Digital Age

A look back on technology and the Courts over the last decade, including the rise of social media and its impact on the legal system, and a glimpse into the future with webcasts, cameras in court, and other technology affecting news coverage.

- *Featuring: The Honourable Bruce Cohen, British Columbia Superior Courts Communications Officer; Beth Karas, Journalist and Legal Analyst, BK All Media, Inc.; Blair Rhodes, Broadcast Journalist, CBC News Nova Scotia; Robert Currie, Professor, Schulich School of Law, Law & Technology Institute, Dalhousie University*

3:15 P.M. Health Break

3:30 P.M. The Public's Right to Know & The Media's Right to Ask

Learn about the open courts principle and Nova Scotia's modernized access guidelines by examining a recent ruling on media access to Youth Court documents in Bridgewater, N.S. Journalists and counsel involved in that case will lead a discussion on how to ensure more consistent access to court documents and other legal information, where appropriate.

- *Featuring: Angela MacIvor, Broadcast Journalist, CBC News Nova Scotia; Nancy Rubin, QC, Media Lawyer, Partner, Stewart McKelvey; Peter Dostal, Senior Crown Attorney, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service; Geoff Franklin, Litigation Lawyer, BoyneClarke LLP*

5:00 P.M. Day program ends

6:00 P.M. Pre-dinner reception

6:30 P.M. Dinner & Keynote Address



The Honourable Judge Kevin S. Burke, Fourth Judicial District, State of Minnesota

Hear from an experienced American jurist about the increasing attacks on judicial independence and other challenges facing Judges around the world, and what that means for a democratic society premised on the rule of law.

SATURDAY, MAY 12 – MEDIA & THE LAW

8:00 A.M. Breakfast & Morning Keynote



Desmond Cole, Activist, Freelance Journalist

Hear from this celebrated African Canadian journalist on the myths and stereotypes often perpetuated in media coverage of diverse communities, and the impact that can have on public trust in the justice system.

9:30 A.M. Sexual Assault: Presenting the Complete Picture

A discussion of the unique ethical obligations associated with covering sexual assault trials, including the presumption of innocence, testing the credibility of witnesses, the dangers of perpetuating stereotypes and rape myths, and how sensationalized or incomplete media coverage can affect all parties involved.

- *Featuring: Diane Crocker, Professor & Acting Chair, Department of Criminology, Saint Mary's University; Steve Skurka, Criminal Lawyer, Legal Analyst; Robyn Doolittle, Investigative Journalist, The Globe and Mail; Denise Smith, QC, Deputy Director, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service; Dana Bowden, Manager of Special Initiatives, Victim Services, Nova Scotia Department of Justice; Cheryl Maloney, Past President, Nova Scotia Native Women's Association*

10:45 A.M. Health Break

11:00 A.M. Sexual Assault: Presenting the Complete Picture

12:00 P.M. Closing Remarks

SPECIAL THANKS

- Canadian Judicial Council
- Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University
- Nova Scotia Department of Justice
- Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service
- Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission
- Halifax Regional Police