



ADDRESSING JUDGES OF THE NOVA SCOTIA COURT OF APPEAL

Thursday, June 24, 2021

The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal is offering the following guidance for counsel, parties and other court participants on how they should address judges in the Court of Appeal and outside the courtroom:

Many judges prefer to be addressed in a gender-neutral fashion. Counsel should consider doing so by using the term “Justice”, followed by the jurist’s last name. The gender-neutral term “Court” is also acceptable, as in: “I would like to direct the Court’s attention to...”. This is particularly useful in appeal hearings where a panel of three or five judges may be presiding.

Unless otherwise directed, it is also acceptable to address a male judge as “My Lord” and a female judge as “My Lady”.

When speaking to a judge outside of the courtroom, the preferred manner of address is “Justice” or “Judge”.

The Court of Appeal is also finalizing a voluntary process for counsel and other court participants to advise the Court of their pronouns and titles, should they wish to do so. This initiative is intended to help foster a more inclusive environment for appeal proceedings in which all gender identities are recognized and respected.

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