



# The Advocates' Society

## La Société des plaideurs

For immediate release – June 9, 2020

### THE ADVOCATES' SOCIETY ESTABLISHES THE MODERN ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

The Advocates' Society has established a Modern Advocacy Task Force to make recommendations for the reform of the Canadian justice system. The recommendations of the Task Force will seek to combine the best measures by which Canadian courts have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with other measures designed to ensure meaningful and substantive access to justice for the long term.

The Advocates' Society believes that permanent changes to our justice system require careful research, analysis, consultation, and deliberation.

“This is a pivotal moment for the Canadian justice system,” said Guy Pratte, incoming President of The Advocates’ Society. “There is no doubt that we are learning a great deal from the changes to the system brought about by necessity during this crisis. We have a unique opportunity to reflect on this experience and use it to enhance the efficiency and quality of the justice system. We must do that while preserving the fundamental right of litigants to have their cases put forward in a meaningful and direct way before courts and other decision-makers.”

The Task Force is composed of members of The Advocates’ Society from across the country. They will be guided by an advisory panel of some of the most respected jurists and counsel in our country.

The Task Force’s mandate is to provide insight and analysis to assist in the modernization of the justice system. It will be informed by experience, jurisprudence and Canadian societal norms. The Task Force will offer recommendations designed to ensure that the Canadian legal system provides a sustainable, accessible and transparent system of justice in which litigants and the public have confidence.

In the fall of 2020, the Modern Advocacy Task Force will hold a virtual symposium that will bring together thought leaders from the bar and the bench across Canada and beyond to discuss these important issues. An interim report is expected in the fall of 2020 and the final report is to be delivered no later than April 2021.



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### BACKGROUND

The Advocates' Society, established in 1963, is a not-for-profit association of more than 6,000 members throughout Canada. The mandate of the Society includes, among other things, making submissions to governments and others on matters that affect access to justice, the administration of justice, and the practice of advocacy.

The Modern Advocacy Task Force is composed of a national group of members of The Advocates' Society's Board of Directors, 10+ Standing Committee, and Young Advocates' Standing Committee, with expertise in diverse areas of law.

It will be supported by an Advisory Group composed of The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, former Chief Justice of Canada, former Supreme Court of Canada justices The Honourable Ian Binnie, The Honourable Thomas Cromwell, The Honourable Marie Deschamps, The Honourable Clément Gascon, The Honourable John C. Major and The Honourable Marshall Rothstein, together with current and former senior provincial appellate court justices The Honourable Eleanore Cronk, The Honourable Constance Hunt, The Honourable John Hunter, The Honourable Kathryn Neilson, The Honourable Dennis O'Connor, The Honourable Jamie Saunders and The Honourable Robert Sharpe and eminent Canadian counsel Sheila Block and Gérald Tremblay.

**Requests for comment may be directed to Vicki White, Chief Executive Officer of The Advocates' Society at [vicki@advocates.ca](mailto:vicki@advocates.ca).**