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Law Society of Alberta

www.lawsocietyalberta.com

MEDIA - FOR YOUR INFORMATION

December 8, 2006

Members Honoured for 50 and 60 Years of Service

In 1946, the year in which Winston Churchill delivered his Iron Curtain speech, Juan Peron was elected president of Argentina, and the United Nations' first General Assembly opened in London, **Gerard Joseph Amerongen** was admitted to the Alberta bar.

Sixty years later, Mr. **Gerard Amerongen, QC** was honored for his long-standing public service to the people of Alberta. He received his BA (1943) and LL.B. (1944) from the University of Alberta. After his duty of military service, he was admitted to the Alberta bar in October 1946, swearing true allegiance to the then King George the Sixth.

He entered private practice and began a 60-year career in law. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1966. As an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Amerongen served as speaker of the Alberta legislature from 1972 to 1986.

He is among several members of the Law Society who were honored on Thursday, Nov 30 in Edmonton for 60 and 50 years of legal service. The 50-year service award recipients on November 30 were:

Judge Jack Allford, after receiving his law degree from the University of Alberta in 1955, was admitted to the Alberta bar in June 1956. He was in private practice until his appointment as judge to the provincial court of Alberta in 1982.

John Beckingham, QC was admitted to the Alberta bar in November 1956 after earning his law degree the previous year from the University of Alberta. He practiced with the firm McCuaig Desrochers in Edmonton.

Justice John Berchmans Dea, was admitted to the Alberta bar in June 1956 after receiving his law degree in 1955 from the University of Alberta. He practiced law with Field, Hyndman in Edmonton, 1955-1978 before being appointed judge of the District Court of Alberta, and later elevated to Court of Queen's Bench.

Joseph Trofimuk, QC was admitted to the Alberta bar in June 1956 and practiced law with one firm until his death October 22, 2006. His wife and son were presented with his 50-year award of service.

In Calgary, 50-year certificates were presented on September 28, 2006 to:

Edward Phillip Adolphe, QC who obtained both his BA and LL.B. from the University of Saskatchewan was called to the Alberta bar in November 1953. His law career progressed through private practice, crown office, and the judiciary.

Gregory R. Forsyth, QC received his BA from the University of Alberta in 1950 and his LL.B. in 1951. He was admitted to the Alberta bar in 1952 and first worked as in-house counsel for the Canadian Pacific Railway law department. After practicing at Howard Dixon Mackie & Forsyth, he was named a Justice with the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. After two decades as a Justice, Mr. Forsyth rejoined his former practice, now called Borden Ladner Gervais LLP as counsel.

Donnell (Don) O'Brien Sabey, QC obtained his BA (1954) and LL.B (1955) at the University of Utah. He was admitted to the Alberta bar October 1956 and began his career at Bennett Jones in Calgary. He is one of the few lawyers who have given as many as five decades of service to one firm. He served as a Bencher of the Law Society of Alberta from 1976-1982.

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For more information, please contact:
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Photo Caption:

Law Society of Alberta president Mona Duckett, Qc (top middle) presented a certificate for 60-years of service to the legal profession to Gerard Amerongen, QC (bottom centre). Certificates for 50-years of service were presented to Judge Jack Allford; John Beckingham, QC; Justice Dea, and Tim Trofimuk, son of Joseph Trofimuk, QC (deceased).



Photo caption:

The President of the Law Society of Alberta, Mona Duckett, QC (top right) presented certificates for 50 years of service to the legal profession to three members. The Calgary recipients are Don Sabey, QC (top middle), Gregory R. Forsyth, QC (bottom left) and Edward Adolphe, QC (bottom right). A certificate of merit was presented to past Honourary Bencher Dr. Patricia Hughes for her dedication and commitment to LSA.