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## **2007 Distinguished Service Awards Celebrate Excellence in Legal Profession**

For volunteering to do pro bono work in the Edmonton community, addressing homelessness in Calgary, contributing to the importance of mediation in the legal profession, and advancing legal academic knowledge, four lawyers were recognized for distinguished service during the Alberta Law Conference.

Law Society of Alberta president-elect Perry Mack, QC and Canadian Bar Association Alberta president Scott A. Watson presented Distinguished Service Awards to:

- **Nicholas Rafferty** for Legal Scholarship
- **Brian P. O'Leary**, QC for Service to the Community
- **Sandra L. Schulz**, QC for Service to the Profession
- **Ronald G. Hopp** for Pro Bono Legal Service

These awards, which celebrate excellence in the legal profession, were awarded jointly by the Law Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association in Edmonton today.

These prestigious awards recognize the many outstanding contributions Alberta lawyers make to the community, to the profession, to legal scholarship and in pro bono legal service.

### **Nicholas Rafferty, Distinguished Service in Legal Scholarship**

Nicholas Rafferty's contributions to the legal and academic fields have spanned more than 30 years from England to Canada. He is known as an instrumental practitioner, educator and mentor who has advanced the stature of the legal profession through his many roles in teaching across the legal industry. He is currently a Professor with the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary and has contributed significantly to the Alberta legal community, most notably in the area of contract law.

### **Brian P. O'Leary, QC, Distinguished Service to the Community**

The rise to prominent stature in the legal field for Brian O'Leary developed over more than 31 years of dedication to his community, including his extensive work with the homeless population in Calgary. He was elected director of the Calgary Homeless Foundation in 2001 before becoming Founding Chairman of the Calgary Community Land Trust Society. By 2006, Brian was elected Chairman of the Calgary Homeless Foundation, and partnered with the United Way to create a new strategy to end homelessness in Calgary, resulting in the formation of the Committee to End Homelessness. He has also volunteered extensively with Habitat for Humanity. Brian is currently a partner with Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP, leading the Insolvency Law Team focused on banking, insolvency and bankruptcy.

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### **Sandra L. Schulz, QC Distinguished Service to the Profession**

Sandra Schulz has touched many lives in her career as a chartered mediator. She is currently working as a Mediation Program Advisor and Coordinator for the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta Civil Mediation Project, among her other professional endeavours. She earned her Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Manitoba in 1982 and is now a Master's Candidate at York University. Sandra is also now a Sessional Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta in Dispute Resolution and Sole Practitioner in Mediation, Arbitration and Facilitation.

### **Ronald G. Hopp, Distinguished Service Pro Bono Legal Service**

Ronald Hopp's career is marked by an unwavering dedication to give back to the community. Since 1976, he has provided endless hours of pro bono legal service to Student Legal Services of Edmonton, routinely working 30 hours a month of unpaid time. At least one third of the work done through his part-time practice is pro bono. Ronald is now a Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law. His teaching career spans four decades with the U of A after obtaining his law degree in 1971 and admittance to the Alberta Bar the following year. Ronald has helped mould generations of lawyers and his contributions through his teaching and pro bono legal service continues to be felt by students on campus.

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