



**For Immediate Release
October 15, 2008**

**The Role of Journalism in the Rule of Law to be focus
of Law Society of Alberta's Media and Law Seminar**

Edmonton, Alberta ... The role of journalism in the rule of law will be focus of the Law Society of Alberta's upcoming 2008 Media and the Law Seminar.

The 6th annual seminar for the media, legal profession and judiciary will discuss and debate questions such as: When news of high profile court cases or legal issues reach the public, is the rule of law being supported or compromised? Is the public's understanding of the rule of law increased or affected? How has the rule of law been tested by media in order to meet the public's need to know?

The keynote dinner speaker is **Rex Murphy**, well-known Canadian journalist and host of CBC Radio's *Cross Country Checkup*. Master of Ceremonies is **Paula Todd**, acclaimed journalist, broadcaster, author, lawyer and investigative reporter with CTV's *W-Five*. The seminar will be held at Edmonton's University of Alberta Lister Centre on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. A wine and cheese reception and dinner will follow at the Edmonton Jubilee Auditorium.

Two panelist sessions will address the timely questions *Does the Legal System Straitjacket Full Reporting?* and *Is the Rule of Law on Trial by the Media?*

"We are very pleased with the calibre of legal and media experts who have agreed to participate as panelists and commentators," says **Perry Mack, QC, President, Law Society of Alberta**.

Among the 10 panelists confirmed for the seminar are:

- **Brian Beresh, QC**, Alberta criminal defence lawyer;
- **Kim Bolan**, Vancouver Sun, well-known for her award-winning coverage of the bombing and trials related to Air India Flight 182;
- **The Honourable Mr. Justice C.S. Brooker**, Court of Queen's Bench;
- **Mona Duckett, QC**, Past Law Society of Alberta president and Alberta lawyer;
- **Judy Piercey, News Director**, Radio/TV, CBC Edmonton;

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- **Greg Lepp, QC**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Justice;
 - **The Honourable A. Anne McLellan**, former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada;
and
 - **Paula Simons**, well-known Edmonton Journal columnist.

The Law Society of Alberta serves the public interest by promoting a high standard of legal services and professional conduct through the governance and regulation of an independent legal profession.

For more information on or to register, visit www.lawsociety.ab.ca

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