

## 2018 Bencher Election – Gerald Tegart, Q.C.

### BIO

I grew up in rural Saskatchewan, went to university in Regina and Saskatoon and have lived and practised law in Regina since graduating from the UofS law school in 1976. I articulated with what is now the Ministry of Justice and subsequently served as a prosecutor, a legal advisor to multiple government agencies and a legal manager in the government for 37 years, including 4 years as Saskatchewan's Deputy Minister of Justice. I now practice as a sole practitioner with a focus on arbitration and other adjudicative work. I also provide advisory services to businesses and government institutions.

I have been an active volunteer, both in my community and with a variety of law-related organizations. I am a past president of the Regina Bar Association, have served on the CBA Saskatchewan council and was a member of the Canadian Bar Association Task Force on Conflicts of Interest. I am a past member of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and the board of directors of the Canadian Centre for Court Technology.

In 2014 I was elected by the benchers to fill a vacancy created by a judicial appointment. Since then I have carried out regular bencher functions and have served on several committees, including Ethics, Governance, Admissions and Education, Discipline Executive and Access to Legal Services. I currently chair the Access to Legal Services Committee.

In 2017 I was appointed by the Minister of Justice to co-chair the Legal Services Task Team.

### REASONS FOR SEEKING OFFICE

I have a long-standing interest in professional self-regulation, having worked closely with several self-governing health professions during my years as general counsel to the Ministry of Health. Applying that interest to the work of the law society has been a rewarding experience and I look forward to 3 more years serving the profession and the province.

These are interesting but challenging times for all professions. The models of self-regulation we know in Canada are under scrutiny both here and abroad.

However, the legal profession is not just another occupational group. It is a public institution that is foundational to the administration of justice and the maintenance of a robust economy in a democratic state. This doesn't mean we can ignore changing circumstances and external pressures. We must understand the environment within which we work as lawyers and in which the law society carries out its responsibilities. To some degree we must predict the future and begin to prepare for new challenges. At the same time, we need to be circumspect, and not over-react or over-anticipate.

I have enjoyed the privilege of being a bencher and the opportunity to carry out the responsibilities the profession has entrusted to me. If the lawyers in the Regina district choose to re-elect me, I am committed to advancing the important work of the law society in ensuring the

people of Saskatchewan have access to a reliable source of legal services from a profession they continue to have confidence in.