

SYMPOSIUM:
THE HONOURABLE JEAN E.L. CÔTÉ



INTRODUCTION AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

On 1 February 2019, the *Alberta Law Review* and University of Alberta Faculty of Law hosted a Symposium in honour of the Honourable Jean Côté, former Justice of the Alberta Court of Appeal.

Jean Côté is a third generation Edmontonian. He was born in 1940, raised in Edmonton's west end, and was educated in Edmonton schools.

In 1961, he received a B.A. (honours) in economics and political science from McGill University, specifically studying money and banking. Côté was awarded the Oliver Gold Medal in Economics and Political Science. He received his LL.B. from the University of Alberta in 1964, where he was awarded the Horace Harvey Gold Medal. Côté also served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Alberta Law Review* from 1963–64. He had the *Review* indexed by the Wilson Co.'s Index to Legal Periodicals. In 1966, he also graduated with a B.C.L. from the University of Oxford. He finished with first class standing. In 2017, Côté received an honorary LL.B. from the University of Alberta.

Jean Côté clerked to Justice Martland of the Supreme Court of Canada, as one of the first set of five law clerks in the Supreme Court. He later articulated to William Hurlburt Q.C., and was called to the Bar of Alberta in 1968. He received much mentoring there from the Honourable Justice William G. Morrow and the Honourable Justice William Stevenson (among others). The firm used to be Hurlburt Reynolds Stevenson & Agrios and eventually

became Reynolds Mirth & Côté. He remained with that firm until 1987. Côté joined the ranks of the Queen's Counsel in 1984.

He has often served as a sessional lecturer at the Faculty of Law, teaching contracts, advocacy, and civil procedure, and co-teaching legal responsibility. Côté has also lectured at innumerable conferences and seminars for the Faculty of Extension and the Legal Education Society of Alberta. Additionally, he has helped revise and teach the bar admission course. In 1986, Côté was a Practitioner in Residence at the Faculty of Law. He gave a number of guest lectures and met with about 200 individual students. He also lectured to the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and National Judicial Institute seminars.

Jean Côté has served on the boards, and committees, of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and the Canadian Law Information Council. He is on the Law Society of Alberta's Insurance and Library committees.

He is the author of a number of articles (many in the *Alberta Law Review*) and the author (or co-author) of 14 books, one of which has gone through about 24 annual editions, and one of which is five volumes.

In 1987, he was appointed to the Courts of Appeal of Alberta and the Northwest Territories and, later, to the Court of Appeal of Nunavut when that Territory was created. He retired from those Courts at age 75 in 2015.

Jean Côté is now a teacher, author, mediator, and arbitrator.

Jean Côté was also presented with an Honourary Editorship on the *Alberta Law Review* at this Symposium. Justice Côté remains an important friend to the *Alberta Law Review*, and going forward, he will appear on all *Alberta Law Review* publications in the Honourary Editors section.¹ He joins the ranks of the *Review's* other honorary editors, including Professor Trevor Anderson; former Dean Wilbur Fee Bowker; and special friend, co-founder, and continuing advisor to the *Alberta Law Review*, Justice William Stevenson. The entire Symposium is available to watch online at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law's YouTube page.²

The *Alberta Law Review* is pleased to publish the following remarks that were given at this Symposium.

¹ See Alberta Law Review, "About the Journal" (2019), online: <<https://www.albertalawreview.com/index.php/ALR/about>>.

² UAlberta Law, "The Honourable Justice Jean E.L. Côté Symposium" (3 February 2019), online: Youtube <<https://youtu.be/Ddve11cLd8U>>.