

UNBLJ FORUM:

Access to Justice

Editors' Preface

Each year, the University of New Brunswick Law Journal attempts to select a Forum topic that captures a timely legal issue that lends itself to a diverse range of opinions. Though Access to Justice is not a new topic, it remains a pressing issue, and one which the UNB Faculty of Law has given particular attention to over the past year.

We enjoyed a very overwhelming response to this volume's forum topic and were pleased to receive articles from many different perspectives, including government, the Court, public legal education, legal aid, private practice, and academia.

The Law Journal is honoured to publish both the thirty-second Viscount Bennett Lecture given by Madame Justice Lynn Smith, as well as the thirty-third Viscount Bennett Lecture delivered by the Honourable Justice Thomas A. Cromwell. We are also honoured to publish the remarks delivered by Dr. Margaret McCallum for receiving the 2010 University of New Brunswick Law Award for Teaching Excellence.

This year's Forum leads with The Honourable Justice Thomas A. Cromwell of the Supreme Court of Canada, on "Access to Justice: Towards a Collaborative and Strategic Approach." This article is based on the remarks Justice Cromwell delivered at the thirty-third annual Viscount Bennett Lecture at UNB on October 27th, 2011. Justice Cromwell was named Chair of the Action Committee on Access to Civil and Family Justice, which was set up by Chief Justice McLachlin of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Following Justice Cromwell's lecture, on October 28th, 2011, five prominent individuals knowledgeable on Access to Justice issues took part in a panel to share their perspectives on Access to Justice in Canada: Justice Raymond Guerette, Professor Brent Cotter, Dr. Jula Hughes, Dr. Deborah Doherty (Public Legal Education), and Professor W.A. Bogart. Their remarks are also included in this volume of the UNB Law Journal.

The editors of this year's UNB Law Journal would like to express our sincere gratitude to Justice Cromwell and to all of the Access to Justice panellists who gathered in New Brunswick to have this important conversation with UNB law students, faculty, administration, and others. We would also like to express thanks to Dr. Margaret McCallum of the UNB Faculty of Law, who graciously chaired the Access to Justice panel.

Further, we would like to thank each one of our authors. We are so pleased to have so many contributions on the important topic of Access to Justice, and from so many interesting and relevant perspectives.

Lastly, thank you to all of our student-volunteers. Your help is truly appreciated.

We hope that Volume 63 of the UNB Law Journal will provide a valuable contribution to ongoing academic debates and stimulate further discussion. It has been a memorable experience preparing this year's Journal. We hope that you will enjoy this year's volume as much as we enjoyed working on it.

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Editors-in-Chief, Volume 63