



**INTRODUCTION OF THE HONOURABLE RUSSELL BROWN
SUPREME COURT OF CANADA FOR HONOURARY FELLOWSHIP
IN THE AMERICAN COLLEGE TRIAL LAWYERS**

2017 Spring Meeting, Saturday March 4, 2017

Introduction given by:

Past President David W. Scott, O.C., Q.C.

Ottawa, ON

Mr. President, honoured guests, Fellows of the College.

Today we once again present for induction as an Honorary Fellow in the College a distinguished Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada.

This event is a continuation of a tradition in the College of recognizing, by the grant of Honorary Fellowship, all of the Judges of our two highest Courts, the Supreme Court of the United States and the Supreme Court of Canada. No other association of members of the Bar in North America can claim to have initiated and maintained such an extraordinary tradition. Thus not only is the process elegant and respectful, but equally important, it is unique. The partnership in prestige between these two great Courts and their members is a declaration by the College of respect for the extraordinary judicial traditions established in the Courts of last resort in Canada and the United States.

It is a privilege for the College to have the members of both Courts participate in this process elevating our work in the administration of justice to a very high level indeed.

This morning, our purpose is to induct the Honourable Russell Brown, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, into Honorary Fellowship. It is a moment of great pleasure for the College to include a recent appointee to our Court in the roster of Honorary Fellows.

Justice Brown is what we call, in my country, a true Western Canadian. He was born in the village of Burns Lake (I'm told population 2,500) in the beautiful northern British Columbia landscape. To describe Burns Lake as a haven in the wilderness would be an understatement. For the purpose of this introduction, I will risk asserting that Justice Brown's beginnings were in one of the most remote communities in Canada. A first in the history of Honorary Fellowship! His father owned and operated the hardware store in town and he grew up in an outdoor environment of hunting and fishing. While many of us know what bear spray is, few in this gathering will have had to use it in the fending off Grizzlies as was the case with Justice Brown.

Our inductee graduated from the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria and earned a PhD from the University of Alberta. He practiced law in Victoria and Vancouver and ultimately opted for a life in academia. He was appointed to the faculty of the University of Alberta Law School in 2004 and continued for a period of 8 years. He enjoyed a reputation, which is the stuff of legend, of being the most engaging and popular lecturer in the entire faculty. While at law school, he wrote extensively on a variety of subjects including a textbook on the law of negligence. In addition to his teaching duties, he acted as Counsel for Miller Thompson, a national law firm with offices in Calgary. Thus, our guest has been both a practitioner and a member of the academy making him uniquely suited for judicial office.

Justice Brown's ascension in the ranks of the judiciary has been nothing short of meteoric. On February 8, 2013, Justice Brown was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench in Alberta, a trial court. A year later on March 7, 2014, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal for Alberta, the highest court in the province. Completing the cycle a year after that on August 31, 2015, our guest was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. As Thomas Edison once noted, "everything comes to him who hustles while he waits."

Justice Brown is an important addition to the Supreme Court of Canada. Of equal importance, he is an extremely popular figure with a sparkling sense of humor. His wife, Heidi, is with us today and we bid her welcome. We invite Fellows to introduce yourselves to Justice Brown and his wife and learn something more about conservation efforts for the bear population in British Columbia.

Mr. President, it is my privilege to present Justice Russell Brown for induction as an Honorary Fellow of our beloved American College of Trial Lawyers.