



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American College of Trial Lawyers Expresses Support for Chief Justice of Canada: Calls for Immediate Correction of the Record by Office of the Prime Minister of Canada

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA-May 4, 2014 - The President of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Robert Byman, today expressed the College's full and unqualified support for the Chief Justice of Canada, The Honourable Beverley McLachlin. "Our Canadian Fellows, and our American Fellows, are deeply concerned with the regrettable situation that has resulted from the criticism leveled by the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada and other Government Ministers suggesting impropriety in the conduct of Chief Justice McLachlin relating to steps she took on behalf of the Supreme Court of Canada in the context of the anticipated appointment process of a new Justice from the Province of Quebec to the Supreme Court of Canada."

The American College of Trial Lawyers is composed of preeminent members of the Trial Bar from the United States and Canada and is widely considered to be the premiere professional trial organization in both countries. The College is dedicated to maintaining and improving the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice and the ethics of the legal profession. The College is also the only organization in which every Justice of the United States Supreme Court and every Justice of the Canadian Supreme Court has attended a national meeting to accept Honourary Fellowship in the College.

The College has long regarded the independence of the Judiciary and respect for the courts in Canada and the United States as key principles for the impartial administration of justice and fundamental to our democratic societies. Byman further indicated that "a detailed analysis of the facts by our members leads to the clear conclusion that there was no inappropriate conduct or impropriety on the part of the Chief Justice of Canada or the Court. Throughout her tenure, the Chief Justice has maintained the highest standards of judicial conduct and respected the principles governing judicial independence and the requirement that judges refrain from involvement in matters that are before the Court."

The American College of Trial Lawyers has been honoured by the participation of Chief Justice McLachlin at many of its events. "Chief Justice McLachlin is regarded on both sides of the border as one of Canada's and the world's most preeminent jurists and has served the people of Canada with distinction for many years," Byman said. "With its unique international perspective, the American College of Trial Lawyers is confident that the Chief Justice's international stature will remain unblemished, notwithstanding this unwarranted confrontation. However, this matter has come to the attention of the international legal community and correction of the record will serve to avoid the potential for any lingering, negative impact on the Chief Justice, the Supreme Court of Canada and the administration of justice in Canada created through headlines, sound bites and snippets of reports. We urge that immediate remedial action be taken."

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