



Supreme Court of Nova Scotia

Swearing-In Ceremony for Members of the Supreme Court (Family Division)

Friday, April 26, 2024

The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia will host a swearing-in ceremony in Halifax on Friday, May 3, to honour the new Associate Chief Justice of the Family Division and two of the Court's newest judges.

The Hon. Lester Jesudason was appointed the Associate Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Family Division) on Feb. 18, 2024. Two days later, the federal government appointed The Hon. Terrance G. Sheppard and The Hon. Christine Doucet as justices of the Supreme Court (Family Division). The new judges now preside in Truro and Halifax.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place in Courtroom 301 at the Halifax Law Courts, 1815 Upper Water Street, starting at 3 p.m. AST on Friday, May 3, 2024.

The event will also be livestreamed on the Courts of Nova Scotia website. The public and media can watch online at <https://www.courts.ns.ca/operations/webcasts>. Archived video of the ceremony will be posted online following the event.

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The Hon. Associate Chief Justice Lester Jesudason

Associate Chief Justice Lester Jesudason graduated from Dalhousie University Law School in 1996 and holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from Acadia University. He was called to Nova Scotia Bar in 1997.

He was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia (Family Division) in May 2015. Since then, he has presided in the Halifax region.

Further to his responsibilities in court, Associate Chief Justice Jesudason has contributed to numerous judicial committees, including the Family Division Bench-Bar Liaison Committee, the Courthouse Standards Committee, the Judicial Security Protocol Committee, the Outreach Committee, the Virtual Court Working Group, the All Courts Technology Committee, and the Records Management Working Group. He also chaired the Futures Committee, which considered the ongoing use of virtual court options in the Supreme Court.

Associate Chief Justice Jesudason is the current Chair of the federal Judicial Advisory Committee for Nova Scotia, the body responsible for assessing the qualifications of lawyers who apply to become judges of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

He has also been involved in arranging educational programs for judges put on by the National Judicial Institute (NJI). He has served both as a member of planning committees and acted as faculty for the NJI's national Communicating Effectively in Your Courtroom and Building Cultural Competence programs.

The Hon. Justice Terrance G. Sheppard

Justice Terrance G. Sheppard was raised in Sydney, Cape Breton. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Science from the University of King's College, a Master of Arts in Political Science from Dalhousie University, and a Bachelor of Law from Dalhousie University.

Justice Sheppard articulated in Truro and practiced with various firms in Halifax and Antigonish, specializing in family, criminal, and fertility law. He was appointed King's Counsel in 2021.

Justice Sheppard has contributed to his profession by serving as President of the Canadian Bar Association – Nova Scotia Branch, he was appointed and later elected as the Halifax representative to the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council, he was a member of the Adoption Appeal Board, he served as the inaugural Chair of the Motor Vehicle Appeal Board and was Chair of the Family Law Standards Committee for the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.

Justice Sheppard has volunteered on various boards and community organizations and is most proud of his work over the past 20 years in the area of fertility law. He has lectured on the topic for the Schulich School of Law, CBA-NS, and Pride Week. He had been a member of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys since 2016.

The Hon. Justice Christine Doucet

Justice Christine Doucet was raised in Pictou County, Nova Scotia. She obtained her Bachelor of Journalism with a Combined Honours in Law from Carleton University in 1996. She obtained her law degree in 2001 from Dalhousie Law School, where she was part of the winning Sopinka Cup trial moot team.

She was called to both the Ontario Bar and the British Columbia Bar in 2002, and to the Nova Scotia Bar in 2006.

Justice Doucet worked for several years as a journalist at the Halifax Chronicle Herald. She articulated in Toronto and practiced commercial litigation in Vancouver. She worked as a legal recruiter in Halifax from 2006 to 2008 before joining a local law firm, working her way up from associate to partner in 2013.

Justice Doucet received advanced mediation training from Riverdale Mediation in Toronto and obtained CMed status from ADR Atlantic in 2021. She has instructed at the University of Kings College, Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University, and various conferences and seminars in the areas of media law, family law and dispute resolution. She contributed to numerous Canadian Bar Association events and committees and served for three years as co-chair of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia (Family Division) Liaison Committee.