DAVIES



Hon. Morris J. Fish, C.C., Q.C.
Jurist in Residence

Office
Montréal

Tel
514.841.6555

Email
mjfish@dwpv.com

Expertise
Litigation

Bar Admissions
Québec, 1964
Prince Edward Island, 1968
Alberta, 1974

Justice Fish mentors our litigation lawyers on appeal matters, including the framing of issues and the drafting of persuasive arguments. He draws on his unparalleled litigation experience and deep knowledge of appellate practice to provide timely legal and strategic advice to our partnership.

Justice Fish served on the Québec Court of Appeal from 1989 to 2003 and on the Supreme Court of Canada from 2003 to 2013.

He graduated with First Class Honours from McGill University's Faculty of Law, where he was a University Scholar, was elected Permanent Class President and received the Greenshields Prize, the Crankshaw Prize for Highest Standing in Criminal Law and the Macdonald Travelling Scholarship. He pursued postgraduate studies in constitutional law and public liberties at the Université de Paris.

Justice Fish practised law in Montréal from 1964 to 1989. He was called to the bars of Québec, Prince Edward Island and Alberta and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1984.

An adjunct professor in the Faculty of Law at McGill University, Justice Fish lectured on criminal evidence and procedure, and advanced criminal law. He has also taught in the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law and at the Université de Montréal. Over his long career, Justice Fish contributed to many legal periodicals and spoke at numerous legal and judicial conferences in Canada and abroad. In 2007, he became the first Canadian to deliver the H.L.A. Hart Memorial Lecture at Oxford University.

Justice Fish served as a consultant to the federal Department of Justice, Revenue Canada (now the Canada Revenue Agency) and the Law Reform Commission of Canada. He was special counsel to the Inquiry Commission into the Exercise of Trade-Union Freedom in Quebec's Construction Industry (Cliche Commission), the Security Intelligence Review Committee and Canada's Minister of Justice. Justice Fish was also appointed by the Minister of Defence as the Independent Review Authority charged with conducting an exhaustive examination of Canada's military justice system.

A former board director of Montréal's Legal Aid Bureau, Justice Fish chaired various committees of the bars of Montréal and of Québec. He was chair of the Québec Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, was a long-time member and former chair of McGill University's Faculty of Law Advisory Board and is a member of the McGill principal's International Advisory Board. In 2005, Justice Fish was appointed to serve as the "person of unquestioned integrity and independence" provided for by McGill's Regulations Relating to the Employment of Academic Staff.

Justice Fish received honorary LLDs from McGill University in 2001 and from Yeshiva University in 2009. He is an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

In recognition of his remarkable contributions to the legal community and the cause of justice, Justice Fish has received numerous awards and medals, and was appointed Companion of the Order of Canada in 2017.

Representative Work

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Dutee Chand

Successfully represented **Dutee Chand**, an Indian-born sprinter, in a landmark international sports ruling suspending the operation of the International Association Athletic Federation's Hyperandrogenism Regulation, which screens female athletes on the basis of their natural testosterone levels.

Recognitions

American College of Trial Lawyers
Honorary Fellow

Order of Canada
Companion
2017

International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law
Medal of Recognition
2008

G. Arthur Martin
Medal
2011 - For his contribution to criminal justice in Canada

Lord Reading Law Society
Human Rights Award
2014 - For his “outstanding contribution to the advancement of human rights”

Bar of Montréal
Medal
2014 - For his “remarkable contribution to the cause of justice”

Confederation of Canada
125th Anniversary Medal
1992 - For his outstanding and significant contributions to Canada

Queen Elizabeth II
Golden Jubilee Medal
2002 - For his outstanding and significant contributions to Canada

Queen Elizabeth II
Diamond Jubilee Medal
2012 - For his outstanding and significant contributions to Canada

Yeshiva University
Honorary LLD
2009

McGill University
Honorary LLD
2001

McGill University
F.R. Scott Medal
2006

Insights

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Matthew Milne-Smith Named Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers
Mar 3, 2026

Financial Times Shortlists Davies for Innovative Lawyers North America Awards 2021
Nov 16, 2021

Davies Jurist in Residence Morris J. Fish Delivers Report on Canada's Military Justice System
Jun 4, 2021

Education

Université de Paris, (Constitutional Law and Public Liberties), 1962-1963
McGill University, BCL (with First Class Honours), 1962
McGill University, BA (with Distinction), 1959

Bar Admissions

Québec, 1964
Prince Edward Island, 1968
Alberta, 1974

Professional Affiliations

American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow