



Nelligan O'Brien Payne

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY
July 19, 2006

Prestigious Ottawa Lawyer John P. Nelligan to Celebrate 85th Birthday

OTTAWA, July 19, 2006 — Renowned Canadian lawyer John P. Nelligan of Nelligan O'Brien Payne will turn 85 on July 22. With a law practice spanning over fifty years, Mr. Nelligan remains an active lawyer who continues to manage cases and analyze current legislation. His birthday on July 22 marks a significant milestone in the life of this distinguished member of the national capital region's professional community.

A small gathering will be held to celebrate Mr. Nelligan's birthday, and members of the press are invited to attend. The details are as follows:

When: Thursday, July 20, 2006
Where: The National Arts Centre, Fountain Room
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

"John Nelligan is a remarkable lawyer and an equally remarkable human being," adds Janice Payne, a managing partner at Nelligan O'Brien Payne, "...The rest of us work hard to be as clear thinking and well spoken as he is, naturally and without breaking a sweat, at the age of 85. We don't ever expect to match him, but it's a constant challenge to keep trying."

Most recently, Mr. Nelligan was honoured to be included in "*Learned Friends: A Tribute to Fifty Remarkable Ontario Advocates, 1950-2000*" a publication by The Advocates' Society. This book details the province's rich history of advocacy by showcasing a selection of the finest advocates of the last half-century. Also, in the Fall of 2004, Mr. Nelligan was designated by the Canadian Judicial Council to sit on the five-person Inquiry Committee in to the conduct of Mr. Justice Paul Cosgrove.

Called "Ottawa's Perry Mason," with a celebrated resemblance to actor Jimmy Stewart, Mr. Nelligan reflects on the success of his lengthy career with characteristic humility, attributing much of his accomplishment to the luck of being "in the right place at the right time." But those familiar with his wily courtroom presence and exceptional negotiation skills attest to the confident and respectful spirit with which Mr. Nelligan is able to fill a courtroom. As Allan O'Brien, a managing partner of Nelligan O'Brien Payne, puts it, "Even in the most acrimonious cases, John's civility remains at the forefront."

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Mr. Nelligan credits his knack for grace under pressure to the testing fires of court marshal work during the Second World War. He recalls how some of these early experiences, when he was stationed in Europe, awakened in him "the exhilaration of what one could do in the field of advocacy," while also providing him with "a four-year post-graduate course in human folly [which was] an excellent preparation for the practice of law." Before he had attended a single law lecture, he was acting as an advocate on behalf of individuals who found themselves in the trying circumstances of war.

Fifty years later, his well-established firm stands apart in the field of advocacy. Mr. Nelligan credits this reputation to the high quality of the firm's staff in a broad range of legal areas, and to the significant investment the firm has made in building a strong, unified business culture. He reserves judgment on the current trend toward large firm mergers, suggesting that legal networks offer an alternative that does not impose the numerous cultural challenges for staff that almost always accompany large mergers. His own firm is a member of Lexwork International, an association of mid-sized independent law firms in major cities located across both North America and Europe.

As for future developments in Canadian law, Mr. Nelligan sees increasing complexity and codification as the key challenges ahead for legislators. It's critical, he urges, that first principles not get lost in the complexity: "Our civilization is based on the rule of law; without it, our society would collapse. But law is really just the standard of how a reasonable person should act. It's the job of advocates and legislators to make sure this standard reflects our evolving society in a way that's fair and just."

Please find attached a chronology of Mr. Nelligan's career as well as his professional profile.

For more information on Nelligan O'Brien Payne please visit our web site at www.nelligan.ca.

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Nelligan O'Brien Payne is a multi-service law firm offering services in a wide range of areas, including employment and labour law, union consulting, litigation, business law, technology law, intellectual property, insurance defence, public law, personal injury and wrongful death, real estate and development, condominium law, family law and estate planning. One of the largest and most respected law firms in the National Capital Region, Nelligan O'Brien Payne is committed to offering the highest level of excellence in client service. Visit our Web site at www.nelligan.ca.

Career Timeline – John P. Nelligan, Q.C., LSM

- 1921 Born in Hamilton, Ontario
- 1942 Receives Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Toronto
- 1942-1946 Serves overseas in Second World War, R.C.A.S.C., Lieutenant
- 1949 Becomes Barrister at Law (with Honours), Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto
- 1949-1952 Assistant Director, Canadian Survey of the Legal Profession
- 1952-1955 Practices law with Edmonds, Maloney, Nelligan and Edmonds, Toronto
- 1954-1957 Secretary, Ontario Section, Canadian Bar Association
- 1955 Moves to Ottawa
- 1955-1963 Practices law with McIlraith & McIlraith, Ottawa
- 1957-1960 Chairman, Legal Aid Liaison Committee, Canadian Bar Association
- 1960-1962 Acts as legal advisor for Eastview (now Vanier); a key player in Eastview's achievement of city status on January 1, 1961
- 1963 Establishes and becomes senior partner of Nelligan Power LLP (now Nelligan O'Brien Payne)
- 1965-1967 Chairman, Civil Liberties Section, Canadian Bar Association
- 1965-1969 Director, The Advocates' Society
- 1972 Queen's Counsel
- 1972-1974 President, Canadian Civil Liberties Association
- 1974-1977 Member, National Executive, Canadian Bar Association
- 1975-1983 Dredging case—Acts as lawyer for Sceptre Dredging, on of 21 leading dredging companies charged by Crown with conspiracy to defraud the government. Charges against Sceptre were dropped.
- 1976 Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- 1979-1981 Chairman, Legislation and Law Reform Committee, Canadian Bar Association

- 1980-1985 Director, The Advocates' Society
- 1981-1983 Vice President, The Advocates' Society
- 1983-1984 President, The Advocates' Society
- 1982-1984 Councillor, Medical-Legal Society of Ottawa-Carleton
- 1986 Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers
- 1987 Obtained a key win against Ontario Hydro and Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. - \$1.4 million awarded in damages, interest and cost. Mr. Nelligan also negotiated an out of court settlement with AECL on behalf of his client.
- 1988-1991 President, The Thomas More Lawyers' Guild of Ottawa
- 1988-1999 Certified by Law Society of Upper Canada as a Specialist in Civil Litigation and Criminal Law
- 1990 Lawyer for a former Liberal cabinet minister against federal government charges of fraud and conspiracy; charges are eventually dismissed
- Lawyer for a Liberal Senator against government charges of misuse of Senate supplies and services; charges are eventually dropped
- 1991 Receives honorary Bachelor of Law degree from Osgood Hall (York University)
- Receives the Law Society of Upper Canada Medal
- 1992-1996 Chairman, Court Reform Implementation Task Force, Canadian Bar Association
- 1993-1995 Director, American College of Trial Lawyers, Province Committee
- 1993-1998 Member, American College of Trial Lawyers, Attorney-Client Relationship Committee
- 1994 Receives the Laidlaw Medal for Excellence in Advocacy
- Lawyer in suit against Red Cross for wrongful dismissal; wins case, Client awarded over \$200K in damages and has name cleared in media
- 1995 Receives the Advocates' Society Medal
- Acts as Committee Counsel for Senate Inquiry into privatization of Toronto's Pearson Airport
- 1998 Receives Award of Merit from B'nai Brith Canada
- 2000 Life Member, The Law Society of Upper Canada
- 50 Years at the Bar, County of Carleton Law Association
- 2001 Receives Medal of Honour from County of Carleton Law Association

JOHN P. NELLIGAN, Q.C., LSM, D.U. (Hon.)**Areas of Practice**

Civil Litigation (Certified as a specialist in civil and criminal litigation)
 Labour and Employment Law
 Municipal Law
 Professional Negligence
 Insurance Defence

Education

1942 B.A., University of Toronto
 1949 Barrister at Law (Honours), Osgoode Hall, Toronto
 1991 LL.B., York University
 1991 Law Society Medal
 1994 Laidlaw Medal for Excellence in Advocacy
 1994 The Advocates' Society Medal
 2002 Doctor of the University of Ottawa
 2002 County of Carleton Law Association Medal

Professional Activities and Organizations

The Advocates' Society
 (President — 1983–84)
 American College of Trial Lawyers — Fellow
 International Academy of Trial Lawyers — Fellow
 Canadian Civil Liberties Association (President — 1972–74)
 Medical-Legal Society of Ottawa-Carleton
 John Howard Society of Ottawa (President — 1962–64)
 Thomas More Lawyers Guild of Ottawa (President — 1988–90)
 Canadian Bar Association (National Executive — 1974–77)
 County of Carleton Law Association

Public Organizations and Clubs

United Way (Director — 1964–68)
 Social Planning Council (Director — 1973–77)
 Ottawa Mental Health Association (Director — 1977–80)
 St. Vincent's Hospital, Member, Board of Governors, 1990–93
 Institute of Mental Health Research Advisory Board (Director — 1993-98)

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John Nelligan is a founding partner of Nelligan O'Brien Payne. Called to the Ontario Bar, with honours, in 1949, he was named Queen's Counsel in 1972, was awarded The Law Society Medal in 1991, The Laidlaw Medal for Excellence in Advocacy in 1994, The Advocates' Society Medal in 1995 and the County of Carleton Law Association Medal in 2002.

John is an advocate. He has extensive experience in insurance litigation, both in professional negligence actions and otherwise. He has acted for a number of insurers including the Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company, General Accident, Simcoe Erie Group, Standard Life, Encon and Mutual Life. In recent years, John has delegated responsibility for a number of LPIC files to his partners and associates but he continues to play an active role in their supervision and trial. John also has extensive experience in Labour and Employment law, in both the private and public sectors, and in all aspects of civil and commercial litigation.

John has held many positions in professional organizations, including the Chairmanship of a number of committees or task forces and membership on the Executive Committee of the Canadian Bar Association. He served as Director, Vice-President and President of the Advocates' Society. He is a Past-President of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Thomas More Guild of Ottawa and John Howard Society of Ottawa, and has served on the Boards and Advisory Committees of a number of social agencies. He is a Fellow of both the American College of Trial Lawyers and International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

John was a member of the Faculty of Osgoode Hall Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop each summer for over 12 years, and has participated as a lecturer and demonstrator in trial advocacy on a regular basis in seminars sponsored by the Law Society of Upper Canada, the Canadian Bar Association, County of Carleton Law Association and University of Ottawa Law School.

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