

Court Martial Appeal Court
of Canada



Cour d'appel de la cour martiale
du Canada

The Honourable B. Richard Bell, Chief Justice

The Honourable B. Richard Bell was born in Woodstock, New Brunswick. He joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1973, graduated as valedictorian of his class, and served as a constable at various locations throughout Nova Scotia until 1976. He received a Bachelor of Laws in 1979 and a Master of Laws in 1998, both from Dalhousie University. Chief Justice Bell was called to the Bar of New Brunswick in 1979. He was a partner with Buchanan Bell from 1984 to 2000. He then became a senior partner with the firm McInnes Cooper from 2000 to 2006. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2004. Mr. Justice Bell was appointed a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick, Trial Division, in 2006, and a judge of the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick in 2007. He was appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Canada, a judge of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada, and Chief Justice of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada on February 5, 2015. During his more than 25 years of practice, Chief Justice Bell appeared before numerous administrative tribunals and all levels of the courts, including the Federal Court, the Federal Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Chief Justice Bell is a former President of the Canadian Bar Association, New Brunswick Branch, and a former member of l'Association des juristes d'expression française du Nouveau-Brunswick and of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He is the author of several legal publications.