

Law Day: what is it?

by L. Yves Fortier, Q.C.
President,
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Association

The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) is sponsoring a national Law Day April 18, 1983.

Law Day, although conceived and implemented by lawyers, is not aimed at promoting lawyers.

The CBA hopes that on this day as many Canadians as possible throughout the country will be exposed to programs of education and information so they become better informed about the law.

We intend to make the Law Day an annual event.

Canada's lawyers, notaries and judges are ever more conscious of the serious problems which confront Canadians daily as they wander through a maze of legislation and regulations.

Members of the legal profession themselves acknowledge that the practice of law is becoming more complex, as statutes and regulatory changes abound and modern technology opens new vistas.

Hence the lawyers of Canada have seen the need to improve their own competence by following programs of continuing legal education offered by their law societies and the CBA. Now, lawyers feel they must, in turn, assist the citizens of this country before they become lost in a morass of law and regulations.

The legal profession in Canada seeks to make Canadians more aware of



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their fundamental legal rights and obligations. This, in short, is the purpose of Law Day.

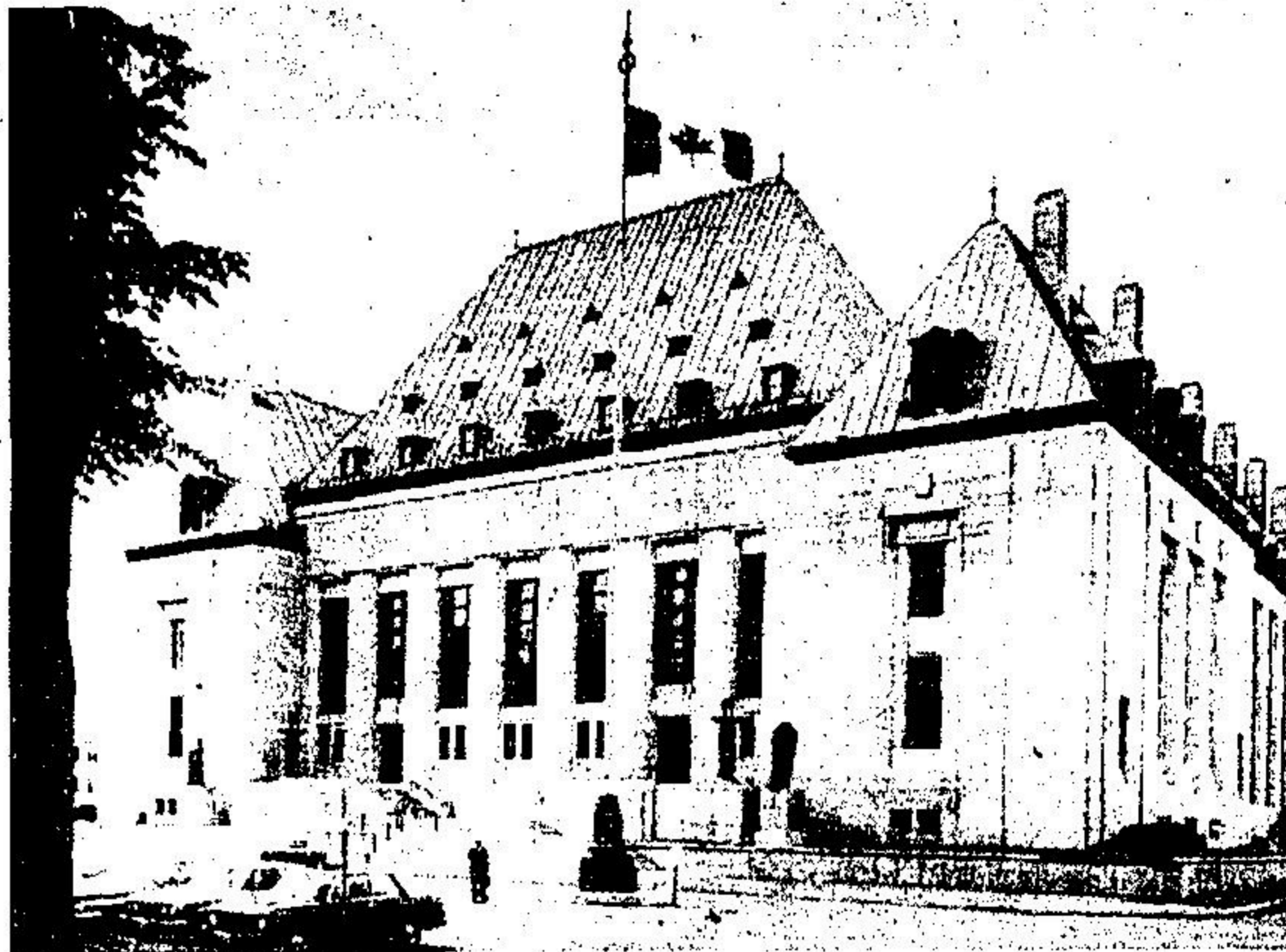
Through various programs, Law Day organizers in every province and territory will endeavor on April 18 to inform Canadians about their laws and, hopefully, in the process, make the law more accessible and more comprehensible. We pledge to continue this exercise throughout the year.

I confess that our task is not entirely altruistic. We know that if we succeed in demystifying the law and lawyers, Canadians will become more familiar with their legal system and less unjustly critical of it.

Despite its imperfections, the Canadian legal system, founded in both the common and the civil law tradition, is one of the best in the world.

There is another purpose for Law Day.

Citizens more knowledgeable about the law will be more constructive in their legitimate criticisms of the system.



THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA
IS THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE LAND

Essence of Law Day lies in total participation

Law Day, Monday, April 18, 1983, is a national day of legal education and information sponsored by the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) for the Canadian public.

Canada's lawyers, along with federal and provincial lawmakers and other agencies associated with the Canadian legal system, are involved in the event which

marks the first anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The essence of Law Day lies in the participation of lawyers, judges, police officers and educators in programs to enhance Canadians' understanding of the law.

Numerous activities are planned. Lawyers will speak to

school groups, service clubs, citizens' associations and other special interest groups in their communities.

Radio and television stations are being invited to program legal talk shows and debates on various aspects of the law.

Some communities will arrange guided tours of

facilities involved in the administration of justice—police stations, court-houses, jails, law schools and law firms.

In other communities lawyers will be available for consultations in shopping malls or other public places and will distribute literature on legal issues of public interest.

Through these pro-

grams, the legal profession, and those associated with it, seek to supplement long term public education projects now being implemented across Canada.

The aim in both cases is to make Canadians more aware of, and more comfortable with, the laws and regulations that surround them.

How Canadian Bar Association works

The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) represents more than 30,000 lawyers, judges, law professors, notaries and law students from across Canada.

It is a national association, dedicated to a three-

fold purpose: improvement in the law, improvement in the administration of justice and improvement in the learning and skills of individual lawyers in Canada.

The association advances

these broad objectives through the work of its sections and committees at both national and provincial levels.

It has branches in each province. Membership is voluntary in all but British Columbia and New

Brunswick, where, by agreement with the governing provincial bodies and the law societies, lawyers must belong to the national association.

Approximately two-thirds of all practicing lawyers in Canada belong to the CBA.

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