

A Judicial Studies Programme Lecture

THE ART OF BEING A JUDGE

The Honorable Constance Hunt,

Retired Judge of the Courts of Appeal of Alberta, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, Canada

WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH 2016, 18:00 – 19:30

LARGE MOOT COURT

2/F CHENG YU TUNG TOWER, CENTENNIAL CAMPUS

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Because the judiciary necessarily works behind closed doors, few people understand the realities of being a judge. Retired judge Constance Hunt traces her circuitous career path, from law studies in the turbulent 1970s when female students were rare, to 19 years as a member of the highest court in Alberta, Canada. She discusses her initial impressions of the trial bench and adjusting to life as a judge. She explores the dynamics of appellate judging in the context of a controversial case concerning human rights and sexual orientation, in which her dissenting judgment was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. She reflects on what this case taught her about issues such as collegiality and judicial independence.

Constance Hunt is a former member of the Courts of Appeal of Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, and a former Deputy Judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice. She retired on August 31, 2014 after more than 19 years as an appellate judge. Prior to her appointment to the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta in 1991, most of her career was spent at the University of Calgary, where she held various positions including Dean, Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Canadian Institute of Resources Law.

Justice Hunt holds an LL.M. from Harvard University, an LL.B. with Distinction and a B.A. with Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan, and in 2014, she was awarded an LL.D (*honoris causa*) by the University of Calgary. She has participated in judicial education projects in Rwanda, Kenya and Morocco and has occupied leadership positions in many organizations including the International Association of Women Judges, the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies. She is a frequent speaker at professional development programs in Canada and elsewhere, and continues her long-standing interest in legal education through volunteer activities. Since her retirement she has been engaged in other professional activities, including coaching litigation lawyers. She is the author of two books and more than 75 articles, primarily in the area of oil and gas, energy and environmental law.

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