

MJC – Biographies of the Board

Dr. Gary Botting, Chair

BA, MA, PhD (English), MFA (drama), JD, LLM, PhD (Law).

Gary Botting is one of Canada's most accomplished legal scholars and advocates. Formerly a journalist, playwright and professor of English literature, he practiced law for three decades before becoming a full-time author and legal analyst. He has written legal texts for LexisNexis on wrongful conviction, extradition and dangerous offender law, as well as academic texts for other publishers. His *Wrongful Conviction in Canadian Law*, with its preface by David Milgaard, was the first comprehensive text in Canada devoted to miscarriages of justice and wrongful convictions review. Most notably, he has played a significant role in advancing public understanding of miscarriages of justice in Canada. As Chair of Miscarriage of Justice Canada, he brings exceptional legal knowledge, advocacy experience, and a longstanding commitment to ensuring that innocent individuals have meaningful access to justice and the wrongful conviction review process.

Dr. Myles Frederick McLellan, Executive Director

LL.B (J.D); LL.M (Osgoode); Ph.D. (Anglia Ruskin - Law)

Myles Frederick McLellan, Ph.D., is a retired Professor of Law and Justice, criminal justice scholar, and wrongful conviction advocate with more than thirty years of experience in legal education, research, and public service. He has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has devoted much of the past fifteen years to studying wrongful convictions, criminal justice reform, and compensation for the wrongly convicted. Dr. McLellan is the author of *Compensation for Wrongful Convictions in Canada* and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the *Wrongful Convictions Law Review*, an academic journal dedicated to advancing research and discussion concerning miscarriages of justice. His scholarship has focused extensively on conviction review processes, post-exoneration compensation, and systemic issues within the Canadian criminal justice system. Earlier in his career, Dr. McLellan experienced significant personal and professional challenges that resulted in criminal convictions and the revocation of his licence to practise law. While he has publicly acknowledged mistakes made during that difficult period of his life, he has also spent the ensuing years rebuilding his career through education, scholarship, teaching, and advocacy. His experiences provided him with a unique perspective on the operation of the justice system and inspired his commitment to assisting individuals who claim to have experienced wrongful convictions. As a founding director and Executive Director of Miscarriage of Justice Canada, Dr. McLellan has helped establish a national organization dedicated to advocating for individuals who may have experienced miscarriages of justice, particularly those who have historically lacked access to conviction

review resources. He remains committed to advancing fairness, accountability, and access to justice for all Canadians.

Peter Copple

B.A., M.P.S.

Peter Copple retired as Deputy Chief of the Calgary Police Service after a distinguished 30-year career and a commitment to community policing. After retiring, he became an independent consultant, conducting critical research, evaluating programs, and reporting on social policy issues, particularly those related to public safety organizations across Canada. Mr. Copple is a Board member of Miscarriage of Justice Canada (MJC) and an executive Board member of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA). Peter was a founding director of the Canadian Criminal Justice Academy, a Private Career College in Calgary, AB, which offers a two-year diploma in Criminal Justice. Currently, he is a Contract Teaching Faculty member at Wilfrid Laurier University in the Master of Public Safety program and in the Faculty of Human & Social Sciences.

Paul E. Briggs

B.A.(Hon) (UBC), LL.B. (UVic.)

Mr. Paul E Briggs is a member of the Bar of British Columbia and has his own law office based in Surrey, B.C. Since 1999, he has been a strong advocate for the rights of accused persons and appeared in several criminal cases as defence counsel, including large gang prosecutions. He has also maintained an appellate practice, appearing over 100 times on criminal appeals including the Supreme Court of Canada. He also practises in the Federal Court of Canada assisting claimants on refugee and visa refusals advocating for due process protections. His practise has consistently focused on advocating for the rights of accused persons to receive due process of law. He acted for Mr. Gurdev Singh Dhillon in his case, which involved a miscarriage of justice that led to his wrongful conviction for a serious sexual assault and resulted in his deportation from Canada. Mr. Briggs advocated for Mr. Dhillon, ultimately having his wrongful conviction overturned and the charges against him stayed, his permanent resident status was reinstated, and he further assisted in the civil justice claim against the RCMP and the BC Prosecution Service, which ultimately resulted in Mr. Dhillon obtaining compensation.

Mr. Stefan Horodeckyj

J.D., B.Ed., B.A (Hons.)

Mr. Horodeckyj is a retired lawyer from private practice and from the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services. Also, he is a retired lecturer from Guelph-Humber University, the Department of Justice. Mr. Horodeckyj is a member of the Board of Directors at Miscarriage of Justice Canada. He is a member of the policy review committee at The Canadian Criminal Justice Association. As well, he is a member of Correctional Service Canada's Citizens Advisory Committee. Also, he is a former member of the Board of Directors of "The Gatehouse" (a not-for-profit organization that offers emotional healing for adult survivors of child sexual abuse). Mr. Horodeckyj is a PhD in Criminology candidate- 2026. He has also completed courses in restorative justice at Humber College. He holds a Juris Doctor degree in law; a Bachelor of Education; and an Honours Bachelor in Sociology. Additionally, Mr. Horodeckyj has published 12 articles dealing with restorative justice and the criminal justice system