

THE HONOURABLE MADAM JUSTICE MACLEOD-BELIVEAU
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE



L'HONORABLE JUGE MACLEOD-BELIVEAU
COUR SUPÉRIEURE DE JUSTICE

COURT HOUSE
COURT STREET
KINGSTON, ONTARIO K7L 2N4

VIA FAX and COURIER

September 3, 2008

Mr. Chris G. Paliare
Paliare Roland
250 University Avenue, Suite 501
Toronto ON M5H 3E5

Dear Mr. Paliare:

Re: Inquiry Committee regarding The Honourable Mr. Justice Paul Cosgrove

Further to your letter of July 8th, 2008 I can advise that I am familiar with Justice Cosgrove's character. I confirm that I have read the notice enclosed with your letter outlining the complaint and background from the Canadian Judicial Council dated the 29th of February, 2008.

I have known Justice Paul Cosgrove for 24 years. I have appeared before Justice Cosgrove as counsel between his date of appointment of July 9, 1984 and my date of appointment of October 4, 1989, primarily in civil and family matters. Justice Cosgrove expected counsel to be properly prepared and familiar with the matters argued before him. I found Justice Cosgrove to be fair minded, informed, competent and diligent in the matters that I argued before him. I found his decisions to be prompt and well reasoned, even for the losing party which sometimes I was.

During my tenure as the Administrative Justice in Kingston from 1991 to 2006, there were a number of occasions when Justice Cosgrove sat in Kingston on family, civil and criminal matters. I recall counsel expressing opinions on how thoughtful, well reasoned and competent he was in dealing with family law matters, often involving difficult children's issues in high conflict cases. I found him to be competent in civil and criminal matters as well. I did not receive any negative feedback in that regard. He is respected by his colleagues for his work ethic and his willingness to tackle the most difficult of matters.

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Over the years, I have come to know other aspects of Justice Cosgrove's character. He is dedicated to his community and gives tirelessly of his time in that regard. He was the primary leader in the restoration of the Brockville Court House and has helped to ensure its preservation as a seat of Justice in Brockville for years to come.

I know Justice Paul Cosgrove to be compassionate and caring. He is devoted to his family, his faith and his community. He has been a tireless and dedicated Judge of our Court.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Helen MacLeod-Beliveau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Madam Justice Helen MacLeod-Beliveau