

## PHILIP GIRARD

### Honorary Fellow of the American Society for Legal History

Philip Girard (nominated to the Committee by Constance Backhouse, University of Ottawa; seconded by Laura Kalman, UC Santa Barbara, W. Wesley Pue, University of British Columbia, and David Sugarman, Lancaster University). Canadian legal history, though still a relatively young field, has advanced very considerably in the last quarter century, a period that has seen significant progress in charting the field's basic contours and central questions. Nobody has contributed more to the field's progress than Philip Girard. Both in his own work and in the organization of conferences and other activities that promote the work of others Girard has been a leader in the advancement of Canadian legal history. The author of two books, co-editor of two essay collections, and author of some forty chapters, articles, and reports, Girard has demonstrated by his own example the importance of historical training to the pursuit of legal history in Canadian law schools. His scholarship has been path-breaking in crucial areas: the history of the legal profession, of legal culture, of legal education, of Chancery, of the courts and of judges. Girard is best known for his biography of Bora Laskin, acclaimed both by Canadian and international audiences. The book is remarkable for the depth and breadth it brings to Laskin's life; though a judicial biography it goes well beyond Laskin's years as a judge, becoming something of a history of Canadian Jewish life and legal evolution in the twentieth century. The awards and recognition the book has won outside the legal history field have raised the profile of legal history as a field of historical study of relevance to Canadian history. We have every confidence that Girard's forthcoming biography of Beamish Murdoch – an exemplary examination of an 'everyday provincial lawyer' and his work – will also have a major impact on Canadian legal and general history.

Philip Girard, *Bora Laskin: Bringing Law to Life* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press for the Osgoode Society, 2005)

Philip Girard, *Lawyers and Legal Culture in British North America: Beamish Murdoch of Halifax* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press for the Osgoode Society, forthcoming 2011)