The Honourable Warren K. Winkler, O.C., O.Ont., K.C., B.A., LL.B, LL.M., LL.D. (Hon.) served as Chief Justice of Ontario and President of the Court of Appeal for Ontario from 2007 until his retirement in 2013. Prior to this, he spent 14 years as a trial judge of the Superior Court of Justice, where he had served as Regional Senior Justice for the Toronto Region since 2004. During his tenure as a judge, Mr. Winkler was also Vice Chair of the Canadian Judicial Council.

Educated at the University of Manitoba, (B.A.) and Osgoode Hall Law School, (LL.B. and LL.M.), Mr. Winkler was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1965. Through his career, he was recognized as one of Canada's leading labour lawyers. Mr. Winkler was certified as a Specialist in Civil Litigation by the Law Society of Upper Canada and appointed King's Counsel in 1977. He has received honorary doctorates from the Law Society of Upper Canada and nine Canadian universities.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mr. Winkler practised law in Toronto first as a partner with Montgomery, Cassels, Somers, Dutton and Winkler and then as a founding partner with Winkler, Filion and Wakely, a prominent labour law firm with a national reputation. His reputation for resolving high-profile disputes, such as the mediation of the Algoma Steel restructuring, made him a highly respected counsel and mediator.

Once appointed to the bench, Mr. Winkler continued to engage parties in his unique approach to resolving disputes. Mr. Winkler has judicially mediated many large national and international disputes, including those involving: Air Canada's restructuring; Ontario Hydro and Power Workers; the WindsorMichigan Tunnel; and the CanWest/Shaw Cable restructuring. He judicially arbitrated cases, including the dispute between the University of Toronto and its faculty. He has also decided and administered many major class action proceedings including those relating to: Bre-X; Hepatitis C; Breast Implants; Tobacco; Walkerton Tainted Water; Mad Cow Disease; and Native Residential Schools.

In addition, Mr. Winkler is a distinguished visiting professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and the Honorary Chair of the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution, established by Osgoode Hall Law School in 2012. Mr. Winkler's success in resolving disputes outside of the courtroom has earned him the reputation of 'Canada's Mediator'.

Honours and Awards

Mr. Winkler has received honorary doctorates from the University of Windsor (2014), Queen's University (2013), Ryerson University (2013), University of Calgary (2013), Osgoode Hall Law School, York University (2012), University of Ottawa (2011), University of Western Ontario (2011), The Law Society of Upper Canada (2010), Brandon University (2007), and Assumption University (2006). He is the recipient of the Order of Canada (2016), the Order of Ontario (2015), the International Academy of Mediators' Lifetime Achievement Award (2013), the Ontario Bar Association's President's Award (2013), the Award of Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution – Ontario Bar Association (2008), the University of Toronto's Bora Laskin Award for Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Labour Law (2007), and the Award of Distinction from the Toronto Lawyers' Association (2005).

The following lectureships, awards and events have been established in his honour: the Winkler Class Actions Moot, University of Toronto Law School; Warren K. Winkler Speaker Series in Industrial Relations, Queen's University; Annual Justice Winkler Lecture Series in Civil Justice Reform, University of Ottawa Law School, 2007-2010; Post-Graduate Scholarship in International Human Rights, University of Toronto Law School; The Honourable Warren K. Winkler Bursary, Osgoode Hall Law School; and The Winkler Cup awarded annually at the International Competition for Mediation Advocacy.

Publications, Lectures and other Activities

Mr. Winkler's Publications include: Co-Author, The Law of Class Actions in Canada; Cofounding Editor, The Labour Law Journal; Editor, Labour Arbitration Cases, Canada Law Book; Co-Author, Sack and Winkler, O'Brien's Encyclopedia of Forms, 11th Ed.; Co-Author, Willis and Winkler on Leading Labour Cases, Canada Law Book; Editor, Labour Relations and Employment, Vols. 1 and 2, Canada Law Book; Advisor, Principles of the Law Aggregate Litigation, The American Law Institute; Advisor, Class Action Defence Quarterly (Chalmers), Butterworths.

Mr. Winkler is an active educator and speaker at national and international events on a range of topics, including: access to justice; alternative dispute resolutions; class proceedings; labour relations; judicial mediation; and civil justice reform. In 2010 Mr. Winkler was invited to deliver the Don Wood Visiting Lecture in Industrial Relations at Queen's University.

In addition, Mr. Winkler is a Founding Director of the International Conference of Mediation for Justice; Member of the International Bar Association Class Action Task Force; Honorary Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace, Queen's University; and Senior Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto. In the past, Mr. Winkler has served as Director of the Advocates' Society; Advisor to the American Law Institute Committee on Class Actions; National Executive and Provincial Executive Committee Member, Canadian Bar Association/Ontario Bar Association; and Chair of several sub-sections such as: Labour Law, Environmental Law (Founding Chair), and Prepaid Legal Services. For over twenty years, he was Co-Chair of The Law Society of Upper Canada, Continuing Education in Labour Law.

Mr.Winkler's involvement in the community is extensive. He is Chair, Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Fund; Board member, Bird Studies Canada; Board member, Canadian Wildlife Federation Foundation; Honorary Chair, Jazz Performance and Education Centre; and Patron, Lawyers' International Food Enterprise.