



## **Ombudsman André Marin to receive Ontario Bar Association award for excellence in public sector law**

TORONTO (April 6, 2009) – Ontario Ombudsman André Marin will be presented with the Ontario Bar Association’s 2009 Tom Marshall Award of Excellence at an award ceremony to be held in Toronto on April 27. The award honours Mr. Marin’s outstanding achievements in the practice of public sector law in Ontario.

“Your career and contributions are exemplary; your dedication to serving the public is renowned,” writes Dan Abrahams, Chair of Public Sector Lawyers at the Ontario Bar Association, in a congratulatory letter to Mr. Marin.

For the past 12 years, Mr. Marin has worked as an agent of change in bringing accountability to public institutions. As Ontario’s Ombudsman since April 2005, Mr. Marin is best known for his high-profile systemic investigations that have sparked dramatic government reforms – helping millions of Ontarians, from newborn babies to property taxpayers to lottery players.

“André Marin is a role model to all aspiring lawyers, a mentor even in mid-career,” said University of Ottawa law professor David Paciocco, who will speak at the award ceremony. “He has made what I strongly suspect to be unparalleled contributions to social justice, community affairs, public policy and legislation by ferreting out problems and proposing solutions for many of the gravest problems that damage our society.”

Mr. Marin also served as Canada’s first Ombudsman for the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces for more than six years, and as Director of the Special Investigations Unit of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General from 1996 to 1998. Prior to 1996, Mr. Marin was an Assistant Crown Attorney in Ottawa.



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The award is named for Thomas C. Marshall, Q.C., who served as counsel for more than three decades with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General and is recognized for his work in precedent-setting cases in the Supreme Court of Canada. The OBA is a branch of the Canadian Bar Association, representing more than 17,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students across Ontario.

The award will be presented to Mr. Marin at the OBA Public Sector Annual Dinner, which will be held at the OBA Conference Centre, 20 Toronto Street, at 5:30 p.m., April 27.

Tickets to the event may be obtained through the OBA website at: <http://oba.org/TomMarshall> or by telephoning 416-869-1047, ext. 307.

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