

**Remarks of Chief Justice Deborah E. Fry
On the passing of Francis Paul Fowler Q.C.
A Retired Member of the Law Society
Court of Appeal, Duckworth St., St. John's, NL**

The Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador:

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the passing of Francis Paul Fowler Q.C., a retired senior member of the Bar who passed away on February 18, 2020 at the age of 78. Fowler Q.C. was born on April 28, 1941. He attended St. Bonaventure's College in St. John's. He undertook his undergraduate studies at St. Dunstan's University in Prince Edward Island. It was there that he met and married Patty Grant from Summerside, PEI. Fowler Q.C. graduated from Dalhousie Law School, Halifax in 1966.

Frank will be deeply missed by his wife Patty, daughters Elizabeth (Javier Sierra), Anne (Andrew Bartlett) and sons Grant (Janice) and Tom (Clare Dawn) with grandchildren Simon and Jane Michael, Clark Swimm (Lori Dawn), Kate, Rachel and Jonah Bartlett, Sarah and Lily Fowler; Emmett Fowler and great grandchildren Layla and Xander Swimm as well as his brothers and sister, nieces and nephews, and lifelong friends from around the world.

The Legal Profession, of which he was a member, will also mark the passing of a very senior well-respected member of the Bar. Fowler Q.C. was called to the Bar on February 23, 1967 and entered on the Barrister's Roll as # 271. Fowler Q.C. practiced law for many years and took a leadership role in the profession as a Bencher of the Law Society. He was remembered by a colleague as a lawyer who led by example, and "his example was the gold standard for ethical conduct among lawyers. He was never flustered or angry, but always fair and firm."

Frank Fowler Q.C. was described as a true professional who never lacked that easygoing touch and candour that told you he respected you. He knew a lot, but did not use his expertise except to help and solve a problem. He had a great sense of fair play and a wonderful sense of humour. Another colleague commented that "I always found him to be a genuine and honest man who was great to work with and most important a lawyer you could trust."

In summary as a lawyer, he was described as a complex person, a very capable, thoughtful and thorough lawyer and advisor, but most of all he was a gentleman and generous supporter of many people and causes. Many friends and colleagues also commented on his wonderful sense of humour and noted that it was impossible not to break into a smile when you were in his company.

As a contributor to his community, he gave years of service to many organizations including the Law Society, Rotary, the Archdiocese, the Neighbourhood Goodwill Center, Gathering Place, Presentation Associate Relationship, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, the Boy Scouts of Canada, and many others.

Fowler Q.C. fit the classic definition of a Renaissance man like a glove - a person who is well educated and sophisticated and who has talent and knowledge in many different fields of study. Fowler Q.C. was knowledgeable and passionate about many subjects in addition to the law - jazz and classical music, navigation by the stars, the calls and habits of birds, carpentry, and the dry laid stonewalls of his gardens. He loved to travel, and was an informed and interesting fellow traveler to those who shared the pleasure of his company. He walked the El Camino de Santiago. Music was an integral part of the Fowlers' life together. Frank was described as the "wind beneath Patty's wings" as she developed her talent and skills as an organist and liturgist. Music brought the Fowlers together and music filled their marriage.

On behalf of my colleagues at the Court of Appeal, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to the family on their loss of Frank Fowler Q.C. The Bench and the Bar will miss him.