



POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER DIRK RYNEVELD, Q.C.



Dirk Ryneveld obtained his law degree in 1971 at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He articulated and practiced law in Cranbrook BC until his appointment as the first Deputy Regional Crown Counsel for the East Kootenays in April 1974. In that capacity Mr. Ryneveld was responsible for setting up and administering the newly created Crown counsel office and overseeing prosecutions within the East Kootenays.

In July 1985 Mr. Ryneveld became the Deputy Regional Crown Counsel for Victoria, where he was responsible for both administering the office and handling a personal caseload of trials. During this period he became the Director of Major Crime Prosecutions for Vancouver Island. In that capacity he regularly interacted with all municipal police departments and several RCMP detachments on Vancouver Island. Dirk also conducted numerous high-profile cases, including murder, sexual assault, arson, and dangerous-offender proceedings. He acted as counsel on a regular basis at the BC Court of Appeal and occasionally at the Supreme Court of Canada. He was appointed as Queen's Counsel in 1990.

In March of 1999 Dirk took a leave of absence from Crown Counsel to become Senior Prosecuting Trial Attorney with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague, Netherlands. Mr. Ryneveld has been the lead counsel in a number of significant cases. The first was a case out of Bosnia that led to the precedent-setting declaration by the Court of the Tribunal that rape, sexual assault and sexual enslavement of women by soldiers are war crimes. That case was followed by the Keraterm detention camp case, in which the camp commander and shift leaders were convicted of persecution as a crime against humanity. Most recently, Mr. Ryneveld was the lead counsel in the Kosovo component of the Slobodan Milosevic trial, which has been described by the media as the most significant war crimes trial since the Nuremberg trials.

Mr. Ryneveld was sworn in as British Columbia's Police Complaint Commissioner on 13 February 2003. He has been a strong advocate for reform of Part 9 of BC's Police Act which deals with the police complaint process in British Columbia. He was also requested by Mr. Justice O'Connor to participate in the Roundtable of Domestic Experts with respect to the Arar Commission.

Mr. Ryneveld served as President of the Canadian Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (CACOLE) for two terms in 2004 – 2005, and as Past President, continues to spearhead the creation of an International Network for Independent Oversight of Policing – (INIOP).