

The Honourable Joseph P. Kennedy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia

The Honourable Joseph Phillip Kennedy, Chief Justice of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, was born in Waverley, N.S., in 1945.

He attended Saint Mary's University in Halifax where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965. He then went on to Dalhousie Law School where he received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1968.

Chief Justice Kennedy articulated with Leonard L. Pace in the firm of Pace and Macintosh in Halifax. He was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in January 1969 and practiced law in Bridgewater with the firm of Kenny, Theakston, Kennedy and Allen from 1969 to 1978.

During his years of practice, he also served as Federal Crown Prosecutor for the South Shore of Nova Scotia.

Chief Justice Kennedy was appointed to the Bench as a Judge of the Provincial Court in September 1978 and presided in the towns of Bridgewater and Lunenburg.

In July 1993, he was appointed as Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court and then as Chief Judge of the same Court in July 1996.

During his years on the Provincial Court, Chief Justice Kennedy also held the position of President of the Nova Scotia Provincial Court Judges' Association.

In April 1997, Chief Kennedy was elevated to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, where he sat as a Justice for three months before being appointed as that Court's Associate Chief Justice in July 1997. A year later, in July 1998, he was appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the position he holds today.

Chief Justice Kennedy is active in community affairs and is a public speaker of considerable note throughout Nova Scotia as well as in many parts of Canada and the United States.