

BIOGRAPHIES

William J. Burnett, special commissioner

William J. Burnett obtained his bachelor of laws from the University of Manitoba and was called to the Manitoba bar in 1978. He was appointed Queen’s counsel in 1994.

Burnett was a student, associate and partner in the Winnipeg law firm of Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP. He practised law for more than 32 years, primarily in the area of civil litigation and during that time, he represented numerous clients including various Crown corporations and the governments of Manitoba and Canada.

Burnett was appointed to the Court of Queen’s Bench of Manitoba in 2009 and became associate chief judge of that court in 2011. He was appointed to the Manitoba Court of Appeal in 2013.

Prior to his judicial appointments, Burnett served as honorary solicitor and/or director of a number of community organizations and charities including the United Way of Winnipeg and Agape Table. He also played a key role in the establishment of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretative Centre near Stonewall.

Kimberley Gilson, investigative lead

Kimberley Gilson received a bachelor of laws from the University of Manitoba and was called to the Manitoba bar in 1989 and the Nunavut bar in 1999. She has practised law in Winnipeg since 1989 and also practises in Nunavut and northern Manitoba. Her work focuses on the areas of governance, economic development and treaty negotiations.

Gilson is a past-chair of the Aboriginal Law Section of the Manitoba Bar Association; past-chair of the Canada Pension Plan/Old Age Security Review Tribunal; past-commissioner for the Workers Compensation Appeal Commission; past-chair of the Discipline Committee of the Law Society of Nunavut; provided peer support for the Canadian Cancer Society. She does complaints investigations for the Law Society of Manitoba, sits on the board of the Winnipeg Airports Authority and is the past-chair of its governance committee.