

## **Attn: Canadian Lawyer Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers**

### **RE: Nomination for Patrick Brown**

Patrick Brown is not just a strong candidate for this recognition – he is the person other advocates point to when they describe what it means to turn legal advocacy into real-world change. Over the last decades, he has stood at the forefront of the civil trial bar, and in the last 18 months he has continued to convert his experience into concrete, lasting change.

Patrick has long helped shape the direction of the plaintiffs' bar in Ontario. He is a past President of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, served on its Board for a decade, and chaired the Ontario Bar Association Insurance Law Section, consistently pushing for a civil justice system that protects the seriously injured rather than limiting their rights. For the last six years, he has served as the Civil Law Subject Matter Expert for the Law Practice Program, teaching new lawyers how to manage complex civil files and, importantly, how to connect litigation strategy with broader issues of accountability and safety.

Beyond the courtroom and the classroom, Patrick has built a reputation as one of Canada's most effective road-safety advocates. He is widely published, a frequent lecturer, and a leader in legal education, but he is most proud of his pro-bono work promoting safer streets. By focusing on preventing the high-impact collisions that so often cause catastrophic brain injuries, his road-safety agenda is as much a public-health strategy as it is a legal one. He spent over a decade as Chair of the Ontario Safety League and was recognized by the Ministry of Transportation with the Safety Award of Excellence for his contributions to road safety. That role cemented his model of advocacy: use evidence, build coalitions, and turn public concern into practical reform.

Patrick's record of coalition-building and legislative advocacy is unmatched. He has been the drafter and initiator of five private members' bills seeking to introduce Vulnerable Road User laws in Ontario, ensuring that drivers who seriously injure or kill pedestrians and cyclists face real consequences and that victims' families have a meaningful voice. He initiated and served as counsel for a year on the most extensive Coroner's Review into cycling deaths in the province's history. That review led to the Ontario-wide Bike Plan, the one-metre passing law, speed reductions, and major safety-infrastructure improvements, demonstrating his ability to take tragic facts and convert them into structural change.

Patrick's work with the Office of the Chief Coroner laid the evidentiary foundation for many of today's road-safety initiatives, including the current fight to preserve protected bike lanes in Ontario. The rigorous fact-finding and analysis he helped drive in the Coroner's Review now underpin the "hard evidence" relied on by Cycle Toronto and Ecojustice in their section 7 Charter challenge to Bill 212. The challenge targets the province's plan to remove key bike lanes in Toronto, arguing it violates security of the person.

More recently, Patrick has continued this work through C.R.A.S.H. (the Coalition to Reduce Auto Size Hazards), which he helped to bring forward with Christopher Watters and Albert Koehl. Through C.R.A.S.H., he has focused national attention on the lethal risks posed by oversized pickups and SUVs to people walking and cycling, and he has translated that evidence into concrete recommendations for legislators. At the same time, he remains active in the organizations he helped form, including Friends and Families for Safe Streets (FFSS) and the Vulnerable Road User Coalition of Ontario (VRCO). He is also a past director and a major financial contributor to Cycle Toronto and Advocacy for Respect for Cyclists

(ARC), consistently putting his time, profile, and resources behind community-driven change.

Patrick's litigation practice reinforces and amplifies this advocacy. While he fights for systemic reform, he also represents victims and their families in some of the most serious and high-profile cases in the country, including matters such as the fatal Kevin O'Leary boating case where he represented the victim's family, the Ciasullo four-fatality crash, the Ravikovitch daycare case which became a catalyst for major reforms in Ontario home daycare laws, and others. These cases are not just about compensation; they are vehicles for accountability, public awareness, and safer practices. He brings the stories of those clients into his law-reform work, and in turn, uses changes in law and policy to improve outcomes for future clients.

Taken together, Patrick's decades of leadership and his ongoing, intensive efforts in the last 18 months show a lawyer who uses every part of his role – trial advocacy, law reform, legal education, coalition-building, and philanthropy – to make Ontario safer. There is, quite simply, no better candidate for this award.

Colleagues who have worked closely with Patrick on education, advocacy, and systemic reform underscore this commitment to the profession and to the public:

*"I have had the privilege of working alongside Patrick Brown and have seen firsthand his unwavering commitment to the brain injury community. Influence is not a word I use lightly, but Patrick truly embodies it, particularly in the time and energy he dedicates beyond his legal practice to advancing policy and legislative change aimed at preventing brain injuries. His willingness to give so generously of himself reflects a depth of character and leadership that is truly exceptional. On a personal level, I am deeply grateful for his integrity, his kindness, and the care and support he brings to those who are injured, as well as his dedication to advocating for policies that will prevent future injuries."*

- **Ruth Wilcock, CEO Ontario Brain Injury Association**

*"Patrick Brown has been an enormous help to us at the Canadian Concussion Centre, University Health Network. As Director of the Centre, I have appreciated Patrick's help and expertise in delivering our injury prevention programs about concussions and other brain injuries to sports audiences and also to those with concussions sustained in motor vehicle crashes. His participation and advice have been great in terms of knowledge translation for the injured, but also for guiding our research into the causes and prevention of these injuries."*

- **Charles H. Tator, OC, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS, Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, Division of Neurosurgery, Toronto Western Hospital, Founder, ThinkFirst Canada and Parachute Canada; Director, Canadian Concussion Centre**

*"I, on behalf of the Law Practice Program at TMU, approached Patrick and his Firm to help us develop a high-quality civil litigation file to train Candidates. He immediately, and willingly, volunteered himself, his firm, and some colleagues. His work continues to this day. Patrick's leadership ensured the excellence of the training experience. I was struck by the priority he attached to the Candidates' futures, and the time he personally devoted to the work. It is an excellent example of 'giving back'."*

- **Chris Bentley, Former Managing Director, Law Practice Program & Legal Innovation Zone, Toronto Metropolitan University**

*“As the co-lead of the LPP’s Civil file, Patrick’s influence is best seen in his commitment to the future of the bar. As a subject matter expert (SME), Patrick has meticulously shaped the civil file materials for the past 10+ years, positively impacting about 250 candidates annually. His engagement in candid webinars on the ‘life of a litigator’ provides a blueprint for success that balances technical mastery with professional character. Using his expertise to bridge the gap between theory and practice, Patrick enables hundreds of future practitioners each year to navigate the complexities of civil litigation with confidence and integrity and a high standard of practice.”*

- **Gina Alexandris, Interim Executive Director – Law Practice Program (LPP), Toronto Metropolitan University**

*“Patrick’s work on (and since) the Office of the Chief Coroner’s Cycling Death Review was foundational for Cycle Toronto’s challenge to Bill 212 on ‘security of the person’ grounds. The organization’s victory before the application judge would not have been possible under s. 7 without the hard evidence. Patrick’s contributions as a former board director and founding member of Cycle Toronto made his contributions to the Charter-challenge steering committee invaluable.”*

- **Brandin O’Connor, former Board President and current pro-bono counsel, Cycle Toronto**

*“Patrick was instrumental in launching the Coalition to Reduce Auto Size Hazards (CRASH) in 2022. CRASH tackles the growing threat to pedestrian and cyclist safety posed by pickup trucks and large SUVs. The coalition includes over 20 road safety and community groups from across the country and engages with all levels of government on this issue. As one of the principal architects of CRASH, and its 2024 publicly released report, Patrick built on knowledge and partnerships gained through decades of advocacy around safety for vulnerable road users on behalf of clients and the public.”*

- **Christopher Waters, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Windsor**

Patrick’s influence is not measured solely by the cases he has won, the positions he has held, or the organizations he has led—though each, on its own, would distinguish a remarkable career. What sets him apart is his rare ability to connect advocacy to outcome: to take evidence, experience, and principle, and translate them into safer laws, stronger systems, and meaningful protection for the public. His work does not end at judgment; it reshapes the conditions that give rise to harm in the first place.

At a time when the civil justice system faces increasing pressure and the rights of the seriously injured are too often constrained, Patrick continues to lead with clarity, persistence, and purpose. He is equally at home advancing complex litigation, mentoring the next generation of lawyers, or building coalitions that drive legislative reform. In each area, his impact is tangible, sustained, and widely felt.

The designation of “most influential” is reserved for those whose work changes not only outcomes, but direction. Patrick Brown has done exactly that—over decades of leadership and, notably, through his continued, high-impact efforts in the past 18 months. His influence is reflected in the laws that have been shaped, the communities that are safer, and the profession that is stronger because of his contributions.

For these reasons, and with the strongest possible endorsement, we submit that Patrick Brown is not only deserving of recognition as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers—he is emblematic of what that recognition is meant to honour.