

Introduction to Panel on Judicial Models

Joanne SPRIET^{*}

“Judicial Models: Can we do better?” was, appropriately, the topic for the first conference panel. We were fortunate to have two very distinguished panelists explore that very notion with us.

It is well known that over time many jurisdictions have looked at the myriad of ways in which civil disputes are resolved both inside and outside the Canadian court system. Reform initiatives are typically undertaken to address issues such as institutional barriers to justice, the increase in self-represented litigants, the increase in the cost of litigation, the increase in complexity as a result of the Charter, and many more that operate to jeopardize access to justice. Our panelists discussed with us what they have done, what they are doing to increase access and overcome barriers; what has worked and what hasn't in their experiences. This is the type of knowledge that is very important to informed debate about actual operational needs as well as future reforms.

Below for your reference are two papers presented each by Chief Justice François Rolland, Chief Justice of the Quebec Superior Court and Allan Seckel, Deputy Attorney General for British Columbia.

^{*} Director, Court Operations (Central West), Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, Hamilton, Ontario.