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"Sent via telecopier to 416-764-1332"

Mr. Kenneth Whyte
Editor-in-Chief
MacLean's
11th Flr. - One Mount Pleasant Road
Toronto, ON M4Y 2Y5

Dear Mr. Whyte:

RE: Interview with Philip Slayton

I am writing to you in my capacity as a Co-founder of the Family Lawyers' Association and the current Treasurer of the Association. I am also a lawyer who has practiced in Toronto for the past 17 years in the areas of family law and estates.

MacLean's interview with Philip Slayton does a disservice to the many hard working and honest lawyers in this Province and across Canada. While Mr. Slayton's book deals with the very few, his interview with Ms. Fillion paints the entire legal profession with the same brush. This is a distortion of reality.

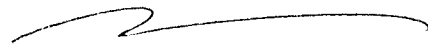
Mr. Slayton claims that lawyers are not interested in access to justice issues. Such is not the reality for the lawyers I come into contact with on a daily basis. The Family Lawyers' Association was formed in 1994 as a result of the Legal Aid crisis in Ontario. Our concern was to advocate for our clients, who are families in crisis, and for the lawyers representing them in the Ontario Court of Justice and the Superior Court of Justice. Our clients are the most vulnerable who face uphill battles each day as families separate or Children's Aid Societies become involved in their lives. Most of the members perform services through the Ontario Legal Aid Plan and therefore work at rates well below their usual hourly rate and at times, given the limits of the plan, are not reimbursed for all the hours they work on a file. Thus, our members demonstrate a strong commitment to providing access to justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Many of our members represent children in our Courts and it is the children who are the most vulnerable in any family law proceeding.

Our Association is premised on the idea of improving access to justice in this Province. Our members in their daily practice are committed to this and our past and current board members devote many unpaid hours to such a pursuit.

This interview does an injustice to the majority of lawyers in Ontario.

Yours very truly,

OFFICE OF T. EDGAR REILLY



Mary P. Reilly

MPR/cm