Insolvency Institute of Canada

June 13, 2024

In Memoriam

David Baird

1935 - 2024

On behalf of the Board of directors of the Insolvency Institute of Canada (IIC) and all of its members, our deepest condolences are extended to the family, friends and colleagues of David Baird, FIIC, who passed away on June 6th.

David was a graduate of the University of Toronto where he earned his BA and Osgoode Hall where he studied law. He started his law career with Harries Houser in 1959, moving in 1983 to Torys LLP where he headed the insolvency department. He retired from Torys at age 70 and became counsel at Fasken for another nine years before fully retiring from practice.

Described by a former partner as a "giant in the insolvency field", David was involved in many significant Canadian restructurings, including those of Cadillac Fairview, Olympia & York Developments, SkyDome Corporation, Dylex, Dome Petroleum and The T. Eaton Company. Throughout his career, David was an active member of the insolvency bar and at various times advised the Ontario Law Reform Commission, Industry Canada, and various federal commissions on the development of, and revisions to, Canadian insolvency policies and laws. He was the author of Baird's Practical Guide to the Companies Creditors Arrangement Act, published in 2009.

He was also a founding member of the IIC and one of a select group of colleagues who began meeting in the mid-1980s at the Millcroft Inn in Caledon, Ontario to collaborate, network and discuss the practice of restructuring law. It was there that the concept of a professional association dedicated to thought-leadership was born.

David served on the first IIC Board of Directors and became its second president from 2000-2002. He then served on the board for another two years as the honorary chair. As a Fellow of the IIC, he remained a life-time member and was an invited special guest at the IIC 25th anniversary celebrations held at the 2015 Annual Conference & General Meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He was a dedicated and committed member of his church, Christ Church Scarborough, and was made a Member of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto in 2019. His family was always his top priority with many family gatherings at their cottage on Stoney Lake. He loved golf, tennis and bridge, and was a long-time volunteer for a number of organizations including the Sea Scouts, Scarborough Grace and General Hospitals and Stoney Lake Yacht Club. He leaves behind his wife of 64 years, Beverly, his children Gordon (Maia MacNiven), Stuart (Michelle Berry) and Alexandra (David Staples) and his grandchildren Geoffrey, James, and Andrew Baird, Abby and Zoe Baird and Lewis Baird-Staples

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There will be visitation at McDougall & Brown on June 21st from 4:00 - 8:00 pm, and the funeral service will be held at Christ Church Scarborough on June 22 at 12:30 pm.

Personal memories can be shared with the family at: www.arbormemorial.ca/en/mcdbrown-scarborough

With notes from: https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/theglobeandmail/name/david-baird-obituary?id=55332019