

## R. Douglas Elliott

Douglas Elliott is a partner in the Toronto law firm of Roy Elliott Kim O'Connor LLP. He received his B.A. from the University of Western Ontario in 1979, and his LL.B. from the University of Toronto in 1982. He was called to the Bar in Ontario in 1984, and certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a Specialist in Civil Litigation in 2003.

Mr. Elliott is one of Canada's leading constitutional lawyers, with many Supreme Court cases to his credit. He has frequently and successfully advocated for the equality and rights of gays and lesbians, including their rights to religious freedom. His notable cases include *Vriend v. Alberta* (right of gays and lesbians to equal benefit of anti-discrimination law), *Trinity Western University* (right of graduates of evangelical university that condemned homosexuality as sinful to have its graduates licensed as public school teachers), *M. v. H.* (right of same sex "common law" couples to equal rights with opposite sex "common law" couples), and *Hall v. Durham Catholic Board of Education* (right of gay student to bring same sex date to Catholic school's graduation prom)

Mr. Elliott was the successful senior counsel for the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto in the Ontario same-sex marriage case, and in the Supreme Court *Reference Re Same Sex Marriage*. In addition to representing the Church in the litigation, Mr. Elliott has been a member of the congregation for over 10 years.

Mr. Elliott has been recognized with a number of awards, including the "Leadership Award" of the Canadian AIDS Society, the "Hero Award" from the Canadian Bar Association's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee, the "Lawyer of the Year" Award from the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped, the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, the "Founder's Award" from the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and the "Community Service Award" from the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto.