



Supreme Court of Canada



Youth  
Activity  
Book



**Photos**

Philippe Landreville, photographer  
Library and Archives Canada

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Supreme Court of Canada, 2015

Hello! My name is Amicus. Welcome to the Supreme Court of Canada. I will be guiding you through this activity book, which is a fun-filled way for you to learn about the role of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Canadian judicial system.

I am very proud to have been chosen to represent the highest court in the country. The owl is a good ambassador for the Supreme Court because it symbolizes wisdom and learning and because it is an animal that lives in Canada.



The Supreme Court of Canada stands at the top of the Canadian judicial system and is therefore Canada's highest court. This means that its decisions are final. The cases heard by the Supreme Court of Canada are those that raise questions of public importance or important questions of law.

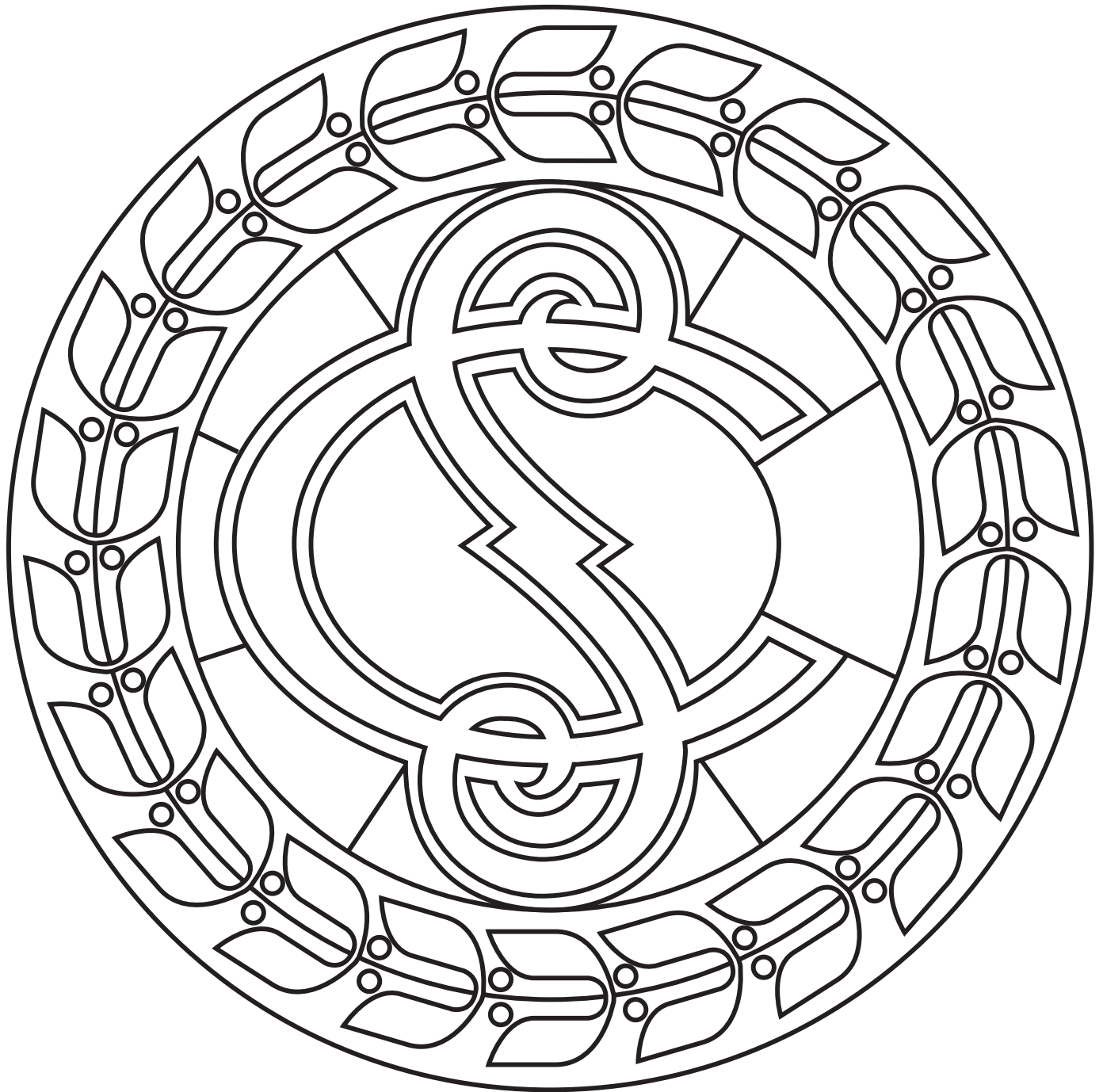
It is time for you to test your knowledge while learning some very cool facts about Canada's highest court.





## **Colour** the official crest of the Supreme Court of Canada!

*The crest of the Supreme Court is inlaid in the centre of the marble floor of the Grand Entrance Hall. It consists of the letters S and C encircled by a garland of leaves and was designed by Ernest Cormier, the building's architect.*





# Let's play detective:

Find the words and use the remaining letters to find a hidden phrase.

A	C	G	A	L	F	K	R	E	L	C	W	A	L	J
C	D	O	I	N	T	E	R	V	E	N	E	R	S	U
I	A	A	N	A	W	A	T	T	O	H	I	G	S	R
V	T	S	N	S	H	E	A	R	I	N	G	H	U	I
I	N	E	E	A	T	E	C	I	T	S	U	J	P	S
L	E	S	T	S	C	I	S	E	G	D	U	J	R	P
A	D	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	A	T	I	V	E	R
N	N	M	O	O	R	T	R	U	O	C	C	O	M	U
I	O	L	A	W	Y	E	R	U	T	N	I	N	E	D
M	P	N	O	I	T	C	I	D	S	I	R	U	J	E
I	S	A	P	P	E	L	L	A	N	T	O	R	T	N
R	E	B	O	R	P	R	E	C	E	D	E	N	T	C
C	R	L	A	R	E	D	E	F	I	N	C	A	A	E
L	A	I	C	N	I	V	O	R	P	N	A	D	A	L
E	C	N	E	R	E	F	E	R	L	A	E	P	P	A

ADMINISTRATIVE  
 APPEAL  
 APPELLANT  
 CANADA  
 CASES  
 CIVIL  
 CONSTITUTIONAL

COURTROOM  
 CRIMINAL  
 FEDERAL  
 FLAG  
 HEARING  
 INTERVENERS  
 JUDGES

JURISDICTION  
 JURISPRUDENCE  
 JUSTICE  
 LAW CLERK  
 LAWYER  
 NINE  
 OTTAWA

PRECEDENT  
 PROVINCIAL  
 REFERENCE  
 RESPONDENT  
 ROBE  
 SUPREME



Hidden phrase:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



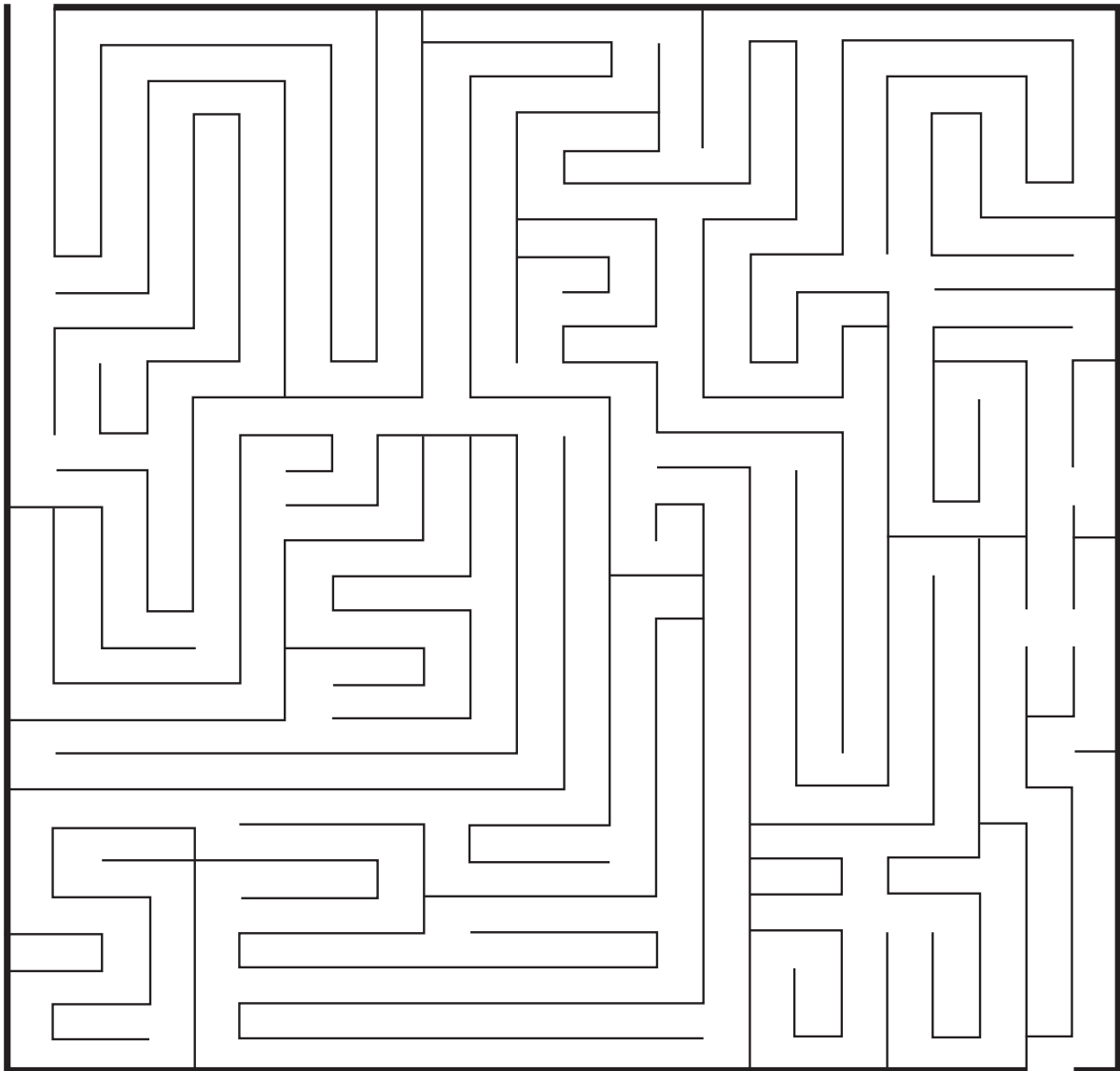


# I seem to be lost.

Can you help me find the right path to the courtroom?



Start



Finish





## True or false?

Circle the correct answer and for more interesting facts, see the answer key at the end of the book!



1. The Canadian flag that flies on the staff to the east is hoisted daily.

TRUE

FALSE

2. The statues "Justice" and "Truth" were found buried under a parking lot.

TRUE

FALSE

3. Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada are appointed for life.

TRUE

FALSE

4. The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin is the first woman to hold the position of Chief Justice of Canada.

TRUE

FALSE

5. The Supreme Court of Canada has always been composed of nine judges.

TRUE

FALSE

6. Members of the public can attend hearings of the Supreme Court of Canada.

TRUE

FALSE

7. At hearings of the Supreme Court of Canada, interpreters translate everything that is said in one official language into the other official language.

TRUE

FALSE





# What do they do?

Find each person's role.

**A** Person who presents arguments to the Court.

**B** Person who takes the public on tours of the building and explains the role of the Supreme Court of Canada.

**C** Person who is not directly involved in a case but is granted permission to present his or her own views to the Court.

**D** Person who makes a decision in a case.

**E** Person who responds to an appeal.

**F** Person who translates what is being said in the courtroom.

**G** Person who helps a judge with his or her judicial duties and takes notes during the hearing.

**H** Person who is appealing the decision of a lower court.

1

Judge

2

Lawyer

3

Interpreter

4

Appellant

5

Guide

6

Law Clerk

7

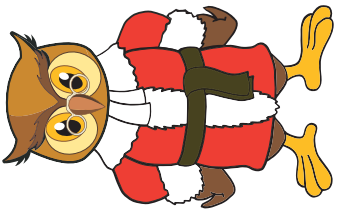
Intervener

8

Respondent







**Help me** solve this puzzle by connecting the dots!

The puzzle consists of 35 numbered dots. The scene includes a snowman on the left, a house in the middle, and a fence and trees on the right. The puzzle is partially completed, with some lines and shapes already drawn.

Numbered dots: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35.





**Use the clues below** to solve the crossword puzzle.

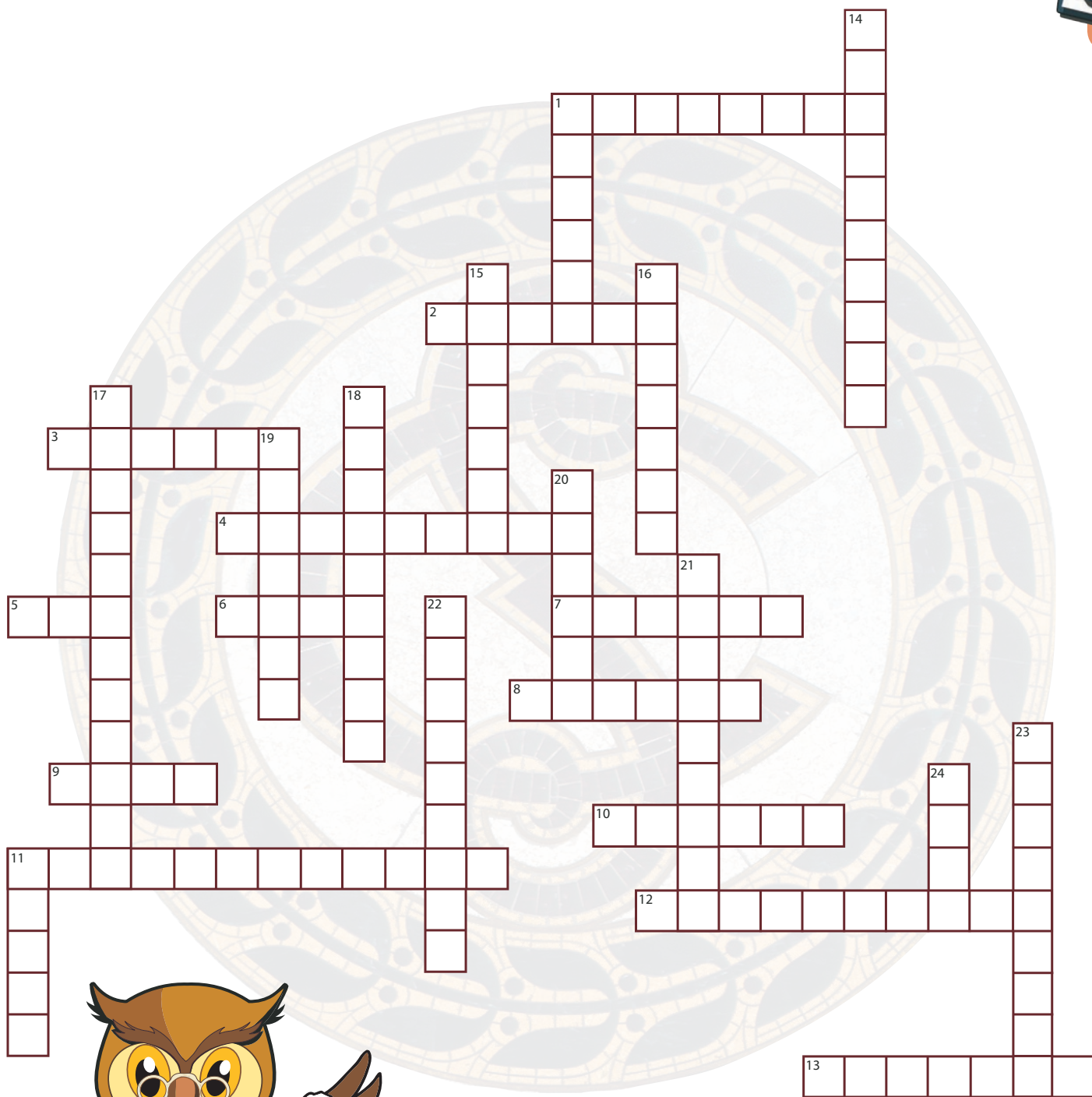
## Across

1. The final decision by a court in a lawsuit, criminal prosecution or appeal from a lower court's judgment.
2. Old French term meaning 'younger' used to distinguish the other eight judges from the Chief Justice.
3. The hearings of the Supreme Court of Canada are open to the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A previous legal decision taken as a guide for subsequent cases.
5. The primary colour of the Supreme Court of Canada judges' ceremonial robe.
6. The total number of Supreme Court of Canada judges.
7. The process by which one asks a higher court to reconsider a decision of a lower court.
8. A person acting on behalf of another in legal matters.
9. Minimum number of judges required to hear an appeal (also called a "quorum").
10. Our home and native land.
11. Hoisted in front of the building, on the staff to the east, when the Supreme Court of Canada is in session. (2 words)
12. The party who responds to an appeal.
13. The highest court in Canada.

## Down

1. They are appointed to hear and try cases in a court of justice.
11. A monarch's jewelled headdress, or a term used in law to signify the head of state.
14. Interest group, association or attorney general granted permission to present their own views on a case.
15. A term meaning fairness, or the name of one of the statues located in front of the Supreme Court of Canada building.
16. The government responsible for all of Canada.
17. The legal authority to handle matters within a specific area.
18. People who assist the judges in their judicial duties, helping them with research and taking notes during the proceedings. (2 words)
19. The renowned Montréal architect who designed the Supreme Court building.
20. The city in which the Supreme Court of Canada is located.
21. The process by which the Governor in Council asks important questions to the Supreme Court of Canada.
22. The party appealing a court decision.
23. Where trials or hearings take place.
24. Garment worn by judges and lawyers.

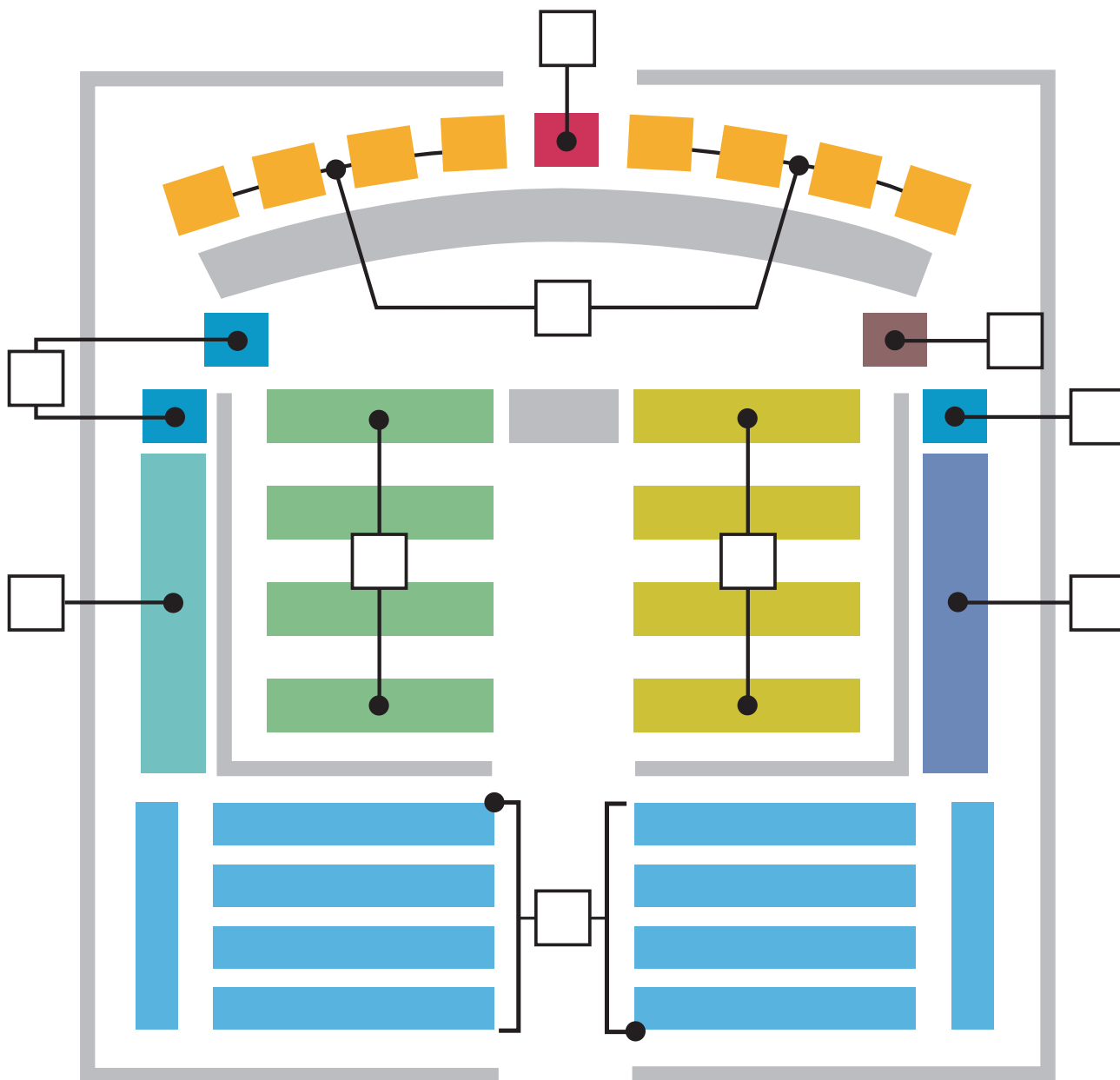






# Someone erased the names off the page

and I do not remember where everyone sits in the courtroom. Can you help me?



- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. COUNSEL FOR THE APPELLANTS  | 6. CHIEF JUSTICE  |
| 2. COUNSEL FOR THE RESPONDENTS | 7. PUBLIC         |
| 3. REGISTRY OFFICER            | 8. MEDIA          |
| 4. COURT ATTENDANT             | 9. LAW CLERKS     |
| 5. COURT ATTENDANTS            | 10. PUISNE JUDGES |







**These pictures may look the same,**  
but there are **seven differences** between them. Can you spot all seven?





## Do you know the answers?

Test your knowledge on these multiple choice questions!



1. How many judges are there on the Supreme Court of Canada?
  - A. 3
  - B. 15
  - C. 9
2. Who was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada?
  - A. Beverley McLachlin
  - B. Claire L'Heureux-Dubé
  - C. Bertha Wilson
3. How many applications for leave to appeal does the Court receive each year?
  - A. Between 150 and 225
  - B. Between 550 and 650
  - C. Between 1200 and 1300
4. What is the colour of the robes worn by the judges at hearings?
  - A. Black
  - B. Red
  - C. Blue
5. What is jurisprudence?
  - A. A collection of past court decisions
  - B. The name for the judges' bench
  - C. The last name of the architect of the Supreme Court of Canada
6. What are people called who, although not directly involved in a case, are granted permission to present their own views to the Court?
  - A. Law Clerks
  - B. Journalists
  - C. Interveners
7. When was the cornerstone of the current Supreme Court of Canada building laid?
  - A. May 20, 1875
  - B. May 20, 1939
  - C. May 20, 1946





# Learn more about the judges of the Supreme Court!

Use the numbers in the box below to fill in the blanks!

The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice of Canada and \_\_\_\_\_ puisne judges. The judges are appointed by the Governor in Council from among superior court judges or Canadians who have been lawyers for at least \_\_\_\_\_ years. A judge holds office during good behaviour until he or she retires or attains the age of \_\_\_\_\_ years.

The *Supreme Court Act* provides that of the \_\_\_\_\_ judges, \_\_\_\_\_ are appointed from Quebec. Traditionally, \_\_\_\_\_ judges are appointed from Ontario, \_\_\_\_\_ from the West and \_\_\_\_\_ from the Atlantic provinces. The judges must devote themselves exclusively to their judicial duties and must reside within \_\_\_\_\_ km of the national capital region.

On January \_\_\_\_\_ 2000, the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin was appointed to the position of Chief Justice of Canada, making her the first woman to hold this office.

40

3

1

8

7

3

10

75

9

2





**Colour** this drawing of Amicus wearing a ceremonial robe!



I am wearing the robe the judges wear during important ceremonies, such as the swearing-in of a new judge. It is red and white, which are the official colours of Canada. At hearings, the judges will wear black robes, which are lighter.







# What do they do?

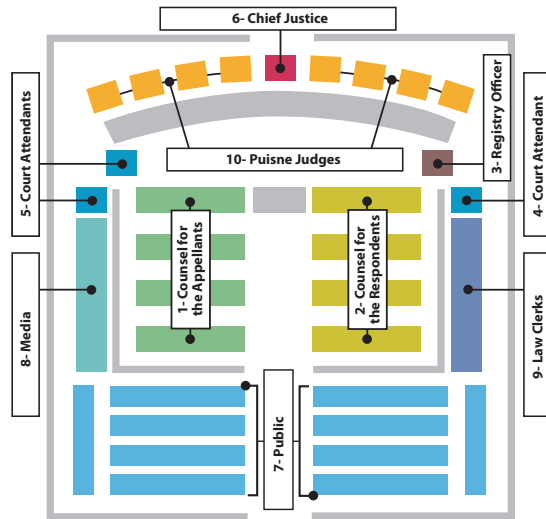
A-2 ■ B-5 ■ C-7 ■ D-1 ■ E-8 ■ F-3 ■ G-6 ■ H-4

## Crossword Puzzle

J U D G M E N T  
U  
D  
G  
E  
F  
P U I S N E  
S  
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I  
C  
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P U B L I C  
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I  
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F I V E  
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C A N A D A  
C  
C A N A D I A N F L A G  
N  
T  
R  
E S P O N D E N T  
O  
O  
S U P R E M E



## Main Courtroom



## Spot the Differences



## Multiple Choice Questions

- C** There are nine judges on the Supreme Court of Canada.
- C** On March 4, 1982, the Honourable Bertha Wilson became the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.
- B** The Court receives between 550 and 650 applications for leave to appeal every year.
- A** The judges wear black silk robes at hearings. They wear ceremonial robes of bright scarlet trimmed with Canadian white mink only in the Senate at the opening of new sessions of Parliament and at the Court on special occasions, such as when a new judge is sworn in.
- A** Jurisprudence is a collection of past court decisions.
- C** At the Supreme Court of Canada, interveners are granted ten minutes to present arguments.
- B** The cornerstone was laid by Queen Elizabeth in the presence of her husband, King George VI, on May 20, 1939. The inscription says "May 19, 1939", which was the intended date; however, the King and Queen arrived in Ottawa a day late because of bad weather during their trip to Canada.

## The Judges

The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and **8** puisne judges. The judges are appointed by the Governor in Council from among superior court judges or Canadians who have been lawyers for at least **10** years. A judge holds office during good behaviour until he or she retires or attains the age of **75** years.

The *Supreme Court Act* provides that of the **9** judges, **3** are appointed from Quebec. Traditionally, **3** judges are appointed from Ontario, **2** from the West and **1** from the Atlantic provinces. The judges must devote themselves exclusively to their judicial duties and must reside within **40** km of the national capital region.

On January **7**, 2000, the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin was appointed to the position of Chief Justice of Canada, making her the first woman to hold this office.

A visit to the Supreme Court of Canada gives one the opportunity to become better acquainted with Canada's highest court. Tour guides, who are all law students, will familiarize visitors with the operation of the Canadian judicial system and will explain how legal issues of public importance are dealt with by the Supreme Court of Canada. When the Court is in session, it is possible to sit in on the hearing of an appeal.

From September to April, the Supreme Court of Canada building is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Guided tours are available by pre-arrangement only. The Building is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and on statutory holidays.

From May to August, the Supreme Court of Canada building is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, including weekends and holidays, and guided tours are conducted on a continuing basis.

Reservations for guided tours should be made in advance via the online reservation request form located on the Supreme Court of Canada website at [www.scc-csc.gc.ca](http://www.scc-csc.gc.ca), or contact us by:

- Phone: 613-995-5361 or 1-866-360-1522
- Fax: 613-941-5817, or
- E-mail: [tour-visite@scc-csc.ca](mailto:tour-visite@scc-csc.ca)

