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## **Press Release For Immediate Distribution**

### **Defence bar calls for outside police force to investigate judicial findings of abuse of process in Peel Police Service**

Toronto, ON, June 17, 2011 – Ontario Superior Court Justice Douglas Gray released his Judgment this week in *R. v Salmon* concluding that ‘the actions of the police, in fabricating evidence, and indeed in testifying falsely about it before the court constituted an abuse of police process’.

“The findings by Justice Gray show there are serious problems that need to be addressed in the Peel Police Service”, says Criminal Lawyers’ Association President, Paul Burstein. “When multiple police officers concoct a scheme to defeat justice, the issue cannot be ignored. The Chief of Police must take action now to preserve the integrity of ongoing investigations. He should call in an outside police force to investigate the implicated service members.”

Mr. Burstein continues stating that “the public expect the police to follow the rules. The Chief should say that. They expect the police to tell the truth in Court. He should say that. He should dissociate his Service from this conduct. Silence, delay or the status quo are not options.”

Justice Gray concluded ‘the fabrication of evidence is an affront to decency and fair play. It precludes any further investigation of the societal interest in the prosecution of the case. The prejudice to the judicial system would be perpetuated and aggravated by the trial itself’.

Given the gravity of this situation the Criminal Lawyers' Association called for an outside police force to investigate judicial findings of perjury in Peel Police Service.

The Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA) is one of the largest specialty legal organizations in Canada, with more than 1,100 members. The CLA is a voice for everyone concerned with criminal justice and civil liberties in Canada. Our advice and perspective is sought frequently by all levels of government and the judiciary on issues relating to legislation and the administration of criminal justice. The CLA also assists its members in every aspect of the practice of criminal litigation. A list of our membership and a more detailed description of our organization is located at <http://www.criminallawyers.ca>

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