

# Donald F. McLeod

*Judge . Legal Expert . Community Advocate*

## Justice Donald McLeod's Biography

Prior to becoming a judge, Justice McLeod was an accomplished litigator for well over a decade with a keen interest in community and social justice issues. The McLeod Group had a well-known and respected reputation as one of the leading boutique criminal, administrative, and human rights firms in Toronto.

Justice McLeod has successfully argued cases such as *R v. Golden* in the Supreme Court of Canada, intervening on behalf of the African Legal Clinic. In 2009, the case of *R v. Douse* was a landmark one, which revolutionized the traditionally used racial vetting process to now take into consideration non-conscious racism. As confirmation of his good work and various achievements, October 2, 2014, marked a new chapter for Justice McLeod as an appointed judge of the Ontario Court of Justice.

Justice McLeod remains very active in the community and also conducts seminars at various legal conferences and community meetings. Notable seminars included a collaborative presentation to the Federal Crowns office with respect to sentencing applications; a presentation with Madame Justice Feldman (Ontario Court of Appeal) at the Provincial Judges Conference in London, Ontario with respect to Sections 8, 9, 10(b) of the Canadian Charter of Rights; and Justice McLeod is presently an adjunct professor at Queen's University Law School in Criminal Advocacy and Critical Race Theory as well as a guest lecturer at Osgoode Hall Law School.

Justice McLeod continues to provide legal commentary for high-profile media programs including *CBC Newsworld*, *The Hour*, *CBC Radio's Metro Morning*, *CFRB 1010*, *CNN*, *Fox News*, *CTV Morning* as well as *TVO's Studio Two* on a variety of topics and community-related issues.

## Justice McLeod's Community Involvement

Justice McLeod currently sits as the Co-Chair and Co-founder of 100 Strong. The non-profit organization was borne out of the passion and vision of a group of accomplished, professional Black men compelled to change the narrative of young African-Canadian Black boys as it exists today.

Justice McLeod is the founder of the Federation of Black Canadians (FBC), which emerged from a need for an additional voice focusing on the Black Community in Canada that spoke to national issues. The FBC focuses on six priority areas: health, economic security, education, justice reform, community building, and fighting anti-Black racism.

Justice McLeod has been the worthy recipient of several notable awards:

- The Lincoln Alexander Award from Osgoode Hall Law School
- The President's Award from the Harry Jerome Awards
- Community Recognition Award from the Jamaican Canadian Association
- The Excellence in Litigation Award from the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers
- The Visionary Award from the Afroglobal Excellence Awards
- The Inaugural Martin Luther King Jr. Award from EFCCC
- Excellence in Legal Practice from the Association of Black Law Students Caucus

In 2019, Justice McLeod was recognized as one of the Most Influential People of African Descent in the World receiving a lifetime achievement award

