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George Swan Challies 1910-1973

Men cannot live together without law, and the extent of a society's civilization may be measured in part by the degree of perfection attained by its legal system. Western society has, over the centuries and through the efforts of many, developed an advanced legal system. Among those who devoted themselves to its furtherance in Quebec must be counted George Challies.

He was a brilliant student who earned his Bachelor of Civil Law Degree from McGill University in 1935, graduating with the Elizabeth Torrance Gold Metal. He also earned his Master of Civil Law Degree from this University in 1947. As a judge of the Superior Court of the Province of Quebec (1949-1973) he was learned in the law, but he tempered its application so as to render true justice between the parties. As Associate Chief Justice (1963-1973) he laboured long and hard to render more efficient the slow-moving administration of justice. In his work as a law reformer on the Commission for the Revision of the Quebec Code of Civil Procedure, he sought to reduce the technicalities and delays of the Law. For over a quarter of a century he taught law at McGill University, partly in the Faculty of Law and partly in the Faculty of Engineering. He was a teacher who lectured with clarity, precision and infinite patience. Those students who had the good fortune to clerk for him in the Court House will long remember him as a wise counsellor and friend. He was a prolific writer on legal subjects in both the English and French languages, at a time when too little was being written in either language in this province. In recognition of his services, McGill University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, in 1966.

George Challies was a simple, humble and courageous man who devoted his life to the cause of justice.