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*Symposium in Honour of John McCamus, Teaching  
and Scholarship*

Article 1

*Guest Editors: Jamie Cameron & Stephanie Ben-Ishai*

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## Foreword

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Introduction

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## Foreword

JAMIE CAMERON \* & STEPHANIE BEN-ISHAI \*\*

PROFESSOR JOHN MCCAMUS HAS been a scholar, teacher, and colleague at Osgoode Hall Law School and York University for over forty years. Generations of students have mastered the finer points of contracts and restitution in his classes, and as we write this Introduction his classes are once again in session for a new academic year. Professor McCamus is a renowned thinker whose great influence extends from Canada to the United Kingdom, the United States, and other common law jurisdictions. Beyond his remarkably productive scholarly career, Professor McCamus's pursuits have reached seamlessly to public endeavours and fields of public law, where he has made unparalleled contributions to policy and reform on diverse topics such as access to justice, legal aid, law reform, and civil liberties. Throughout his career, Professor McCamus has been a leader and builder at the law school and the university, and in the broader legal community. He is a highly respected, admired, and much beloved colleague.

In February 2013, with the support of Dean Lorne Sossin, the law school, this Journal, and York University, we organized a celebratory dinner and full-day symposium to honour Professor McCamus. We invited a group of highly respected scholars to participate in a symposium that would feature fresh scholarship in contracts, restitution, law reform, civil liberties, and access to justice. We worked

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closely with the Osgoode Hall Law Journal and its editorial team, as well as with each of the authors. The result is this special issue, which richly reflects the range and depth of John's work. We thank the speakers and commentators who made the symposium such a success, and the Osgoode Hall Law Journal for working tirelessly with the authors to bring this special issue to fruition.

On a poignant note, we learned, during the editing process, of Professor Roderick Macdonald's death. Professor Macdonald had strong bonds with the Osgoode community and in 2011 was awarded an honorary doctorate by York University; in lieu of a speech to the graduating class, he strummed his guitar and sang to an enthralled audience. In February 2013 and with his illness gaining on him, Professor Macdonald made the difficult trip from Montreal to Toronto by car, braving snowstorms to take his place at the symposium to honour John McCamus. He delivered the symposium's keynote address with help from his long-time friend, Professor Emeritus Harry Arthurs, who read parts of the text for him. Despite his worsening illness, Professor Macdonald revised his paper after the symposium and responded to our requests with alacrity and good cheer.

Professor Macdonald's commitment to the symposium and special issue, in unimaginably difficult circumstances, spoke not only to his selflessness and integrity, but the depth of his bond with John. The respect, affection, and esteem John McCamus and Rod Macdonald had for each other—as close colleagues and true friends—was unforgettable in the moment, and emblematic of the symposium's aspirations.

This special issue of the Osgoode Hall Law Journal had its genesis in a celebration of Professor McCamus's extraordinary accomplishments. This brief Introduction makes no attempt to catalogue his achievements or give them their due. We wish only to say that our respect and affection for John deepened in this process, and that we know full well that words cannot express our debt to John, or the debt of a vast community of scholars, colleagues and students, for inspiring so many of us, for so many years, in so many ways. We appreciate how true it is, as Justice Felix Frankfurter wrote, that “[g]ratitude is one of the least articulate of the emotions, especially when it is deep.”<sup>1</sup> On behalf of all of us, this special issue expresses our gratitude in a way we know is meaningful for John: by introducing new scholarship on the issues that are his life's work, by respected scholars and colleagues he has collaborated with and mentored over the years.

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1. (Speech delivered upon accepting an award from the National Institute for Immigrant Welfare, Biltmore Hotel, New York City, 11 May 1933).