



Michel Yergeau

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Profile

Michel Yergeau is a partner with Lavery, de Billy. He founded the firm's environmental law group in 1987. He has been a member of the Bar of Quebec since 1974 and is a member of the Canadian Bar Association, the Association des Conseillers en environnement du Québec, the Centre patronal de l'environnement as well as a member of several other professional associations. He is also a governor of the Quebec Bar Foundation.

Mr. Yergeau is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is also a member of the Canadian Centre for Environmental Arbitration and Mediation.

Mr. Yergeau has been Chairman of the Board of Lavery, de Billy since 1997.

From 1979 through 1984, he was Vice-President of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement, a permanent body of the Quebec government whose mandate is to investigate various issues related to environmental protection.

Mr. Yergeau's professional practice is devoted entirely to environmental law issues and directly related matters, such as energy and natural resource law, aboriginal law, land use planning law, etc. Over the years, Mr. Yergeau has been involved in many aspects of the enforcement of Quebec and Canadian environmental laws and regulations. He also been involved in various environmental planning, land use planning and public consultation issues. He appears on behalf of clients in civil, criminal and administrative courts. Mr. Yergeau acts as legal counsel for many national and international industrial and manufacturing companies, engineering firms, environmental consultants and environmental protection groups and, as such, has taken part over the years in a great number of transactions.

Mr. Yergeau acted as legal counsel for major forest companies and Hydro-Quebec over the last few years in litigation cases relating to aboriginal issues concerning the JBNQA.

In 1988, Mr. Yergeau published an annotated version of the Environment Quality Act with SOQUIJ entitled La Loi sur la qualité de l'environnement/Texte annoté. He is frequently asked to speak on issues relating to the environment and energy.

Mr. Yergeau was a member and subsequently Chairman of the Hydro-Quebec Environmental Advisory Committee from 1985 through 1991.

The Government of Quebec also invited him to sit as a member of the Advisory Panel on Regulatory Reform presided by Bernard Lemaire for the two mandates which were given to the Panel. The government has just invited him to sit as a member of the Advisory Panel for a third mandate.

Over the years Mr. Yergeau has participated, either as organizer, member or chairman, in many public consultations, both as part of his duties as vice-president of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement and, subsequently, as a citizen interested in land use planning and heritage protection issues. In 1987, he was involved in organizing public consultations regarding the Cadillac-Fairview project on McGill College Avenue in Montreal and in 1991, he chaired public consultations regarding

the development of the Old Port of Montreal. In 1992, he presided over the work of the consultative committee on the future of the Montreal Hôtel-Dieu Hospital. In 2001, he was a member, along with Mtre. Roy Heenan and Senator Joan Fraser, of the consultative committee on the use of the existing buildings of the McGill University Health Centre. In 1987, he was a member of the task force, chaired by Mr. Justice Walsh, in charge of reviewing procedures for public participation in environmental assessments at the federal level.

Mr. Yergeau was a member of the Board of Directors and then Vice-president of Héritage Montréal. He has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. He is currently Vice-president of the Board of Directors of the Youth and Music Canada Foundation and sits on the Board of Directors of the Montreal International Musical Competition. Mr. Yergeau is Co-Chairman of the Cercle du Fondateur of the Canadian Centre for Architecture

Since 1999, Mr. Yergeau is featured in the Lexpert / American Lawyer Media Guide to the top 500 Lawyers in Canada. He is also listed in the [Who's Who Legal](#).