Publisher's Note

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McWILLIAMS' CANADIAN CRIMINAL EVIDENCE Fifth Edition

Hon. S. Casey Hill, David M. Tanovich and Hon. Louis P. Strezos Release No. 3, July 2025

McWilliams' Canadian Criminal Evidence, Fifth Edition, is the most comprehensive source in Canada for the law of criminal evidence. The authors trace the developments of the law of criminal evidence and identify the key elements of a modern principled approach. The work features analyses from judicial, academic and practitioner's perspectives and includes contributions from both Canadian and international experts.

This release features updates to Chapter 6, "The Collateral Fact Rule"; Chapter 12, "Opinion Evidence"; Chapter 13, "The Law of Privilege"; Chapter 22, "Assisted Evidence: Language Interpretation; Intermediaries"; Chapter 23, "Real and Demonstrative Evidence"; Chapter 26, "Judicial Notice"; Chapter 31, "Circumstantial Evidence: Drawing Reasonable Inferences"; and Chapter 37, "Fresh Evidence on Appeal".

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Highlights:

- Assisted Evidence: Language Interpretation; Intermediaries—Language Interpretation—Assessing Need For Interpreter—In-Trial Notice of Interpretation Issues—A trial judge is expected to exercise "due care to ensure" interpreter errors are "remedied", with a common response when interpretation problems arise being to assign a replacement interpreter: R. v. Little, 2022 QCCA 1138.
- Real and Demonstrative Evidence—Real Evidence —Interpreting Exhibits—In considering an unreasonable verdict argument, and what advantages the jury may have enjoyed, an appeal court is entitled to review audio/visual exhibits, not to itself assess credibility of recorded statements but to understand facets of that evidence beyond the transcript: R. v. ZT, [2025] HCA 9.
- Real and Demonstrative Evidence—Demonstrative Evidence—Summaries/Schedules/Charts/Spreadsheets—Ordinarily, a party proffering a jury aid "should disclose it to the opposing party as soon as reasonably possible after it is prepared" and then apply to the court to tender the aid. Submissions are heard, and if admitted, the aid "should be formally marked in a manner that distinguishes" it from the evidence: *R. v. Pan*, 2025 SCC 12.

ProView Developments

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