

INDEX

Italics refer to the mainwork — Mewett, “Witnesses”

Accused

criminal prosecution and, 20
failure to call a witness and, 49
generally, 5.5(a)(i)

Admissibility

generally, 1.4
providing admissible evidence, 3
 discretion to exclude, 3
 prejudicial effect, 5
 probative value, 4
relevance and, 1
relevant evidence and, 2
 defined, 2

Adverse Witness

adverse party as, 83, 84, 14.4
Canada Evidence Act and, 83
cross-examination, 84
 friendly witness, 86
 rules governing, 86
generally, 84, 14.4(a)
prior inconsistent statement and, 83, 14.3(b)
rules governing, 84
 parties, 85

Calling of Witnesses: see also **Witnesses**

competency, 9
 criteria for, 9
cross-examination, 27
examination, 27
excluding witnesses, 35
 presumption of exclusion, 35
 criminal cases, 38
 accused and, 38
 discovery and, 37
 prior to their testimony, 35
 exceptions, 36
failure to call witness, 46, 2.2(a), 2.2(b), 2.2(b)(iii)
 civil cases, 46

- adverse inference, 46
- criminal prosecution, 47, 49
 - accused and, 49
 - right to remain silent, 49
 - crown and, 47
 - “essential to the narrative”, 47
 - jury comment, 47
 - defence, 49
 - judicial comment on failure to call, 49
- jury, 31
 - questions from, 31
- order of, 27
- re-examination, 28
- re-opening the case, 32
 - application to, 32
 - criteria, 32
 - criminal cases and, 34
 - judgment entered, 32
 - test, 34
- splitting the case, 31
 - rule against, 31
- subpoenaing witnesses, 38 see also **Subpoena**
 - civil litigation, 38
 - within province, 38
 - criminal litigation, 39
 - within province, 39
 - generally, 38
 - inter-provincial, 40
 - criminal cases and, 41
 - setting aside, 41
 - procedure, 43
 - civil proceedings, 43
 - timing, 44
 - criminal proceedings, 44
 - reasons, 41
 - abuse of process, 42
 - Charter* violation, 43
 - health risk to witness, 43
 - no material evidence, 41
- trial judge, 45
 - power to call witness, 45
 - criminal proceeding, 45
 - guidelines, 45

Child Witnesses

- Alberta Evidence Act* and, 133
- assistance in giving evidence, 140
 - burden of proof, 142
 - presumption granting the order, 142
 - cases of a sexual nature, 142
 - techniques, 140
 - screens, 141
 - video-conferencing, 141
- Canada Evidence Act* and, 133
 - presumption of capacity, 133
- cases of a sexual nature, 140
- competence, 133, 4.2
- cross-examination by accused, 143, 4.4
- evidence, 133
 - sworn, 133
 - unsworn, 133
 - corroboration, 135
- Evidence Act*, (B.C.), 134
- Evidence Act*, (Nfld.), 137
- Evidence Act*, (Ont.), 136
- in camera testimony, 144
 - Criminal Code*, s. 486(2), 144
- inquiry, 137, 4.3
 - ability to communicate, 138
 - federal, 137
 - oath, 139, 4.2
 - provincial, 139
 - telling the truth, 138, 139, 140, 4.3
- oath, 133, 139, 4.2
- other measures, 144

Co-accused

- accused, 21
 - co-accused and, 21

Collateral Issue: see **Credibility and Weight, Relevance**
rule, 187

- exceptions to collateral issue rule, 187

Commission Evidence

- generally, 97, 19.2

Compellability

- accused, 20, 5.5(a)

- Canada Evidence Act* and, 20
 - criminal prosecution, 20, 5.5(a)(ii)
 - right to remain silent and, 20
 - jury instruction and, 21-22
 - board members, 18, 5.2(c)
 - counsel, 24
 - opposing, 24, 5.6
 - Crown officials, 16, 5.2(a)
 - constitutional theory and, 16
 - discovery and, 16
 - high officials, 16
 - investigators, 19, 5.2(d)
 - judges, 17, 5.2(d)
 - decision-making process and, 18
 - mediators, 19, 5.2(d)
 - members of parliament, 17, 5.2(a)
 - in session, 17
 - parliamentary privilege, 17
 - ombudsmen, 19, 5.2(d)
 - tribunal members, 18, 5.2(c)
 - decision-making process, 18
 - judicial review and, 18
- Compelling Attendance:** see also **Contempt of Court, Failure to Attend, Inability to Testify, Foreign Letters Rogatory, Refusal to Testify, Subpoena**
- accused, 20
 - board members, 18
 - Canada Evidence Act* and, 104
 - documentary evidence, 104
 - oral testimony, 104
 - Crown officials, 16, 7.3
 - enforcement, 103
 - criteria, 104
 - generally, 16, 103, 7.1, 17.3
 - international comity, 103
 - judges, 17
 - materiality of evidence, 106
 - members of parliament, 17, 7.3
 - opposing counsel, 24
 - motions and, 24
 - self-represented lawyer, 24
 - prejudice, 106
 - procedure of taking evidence under, 107
 - conditions on exercise, 107

refusal, 107
 public policy, 107
tribunal members, 18, 7.6

Competence: see also **Oath**

Canada Evidence Act and, 11

capacity, 11

 recall and perceive test, 11

generally, 9, 3.1

inquiry into competence, 12

intelligibility, 10, 3.2(f)

 non-speech, 11

 speech, 12

judges, 15, 3.2(g), 5.2(b)

jurors, 15, 3.2(g)

oath, 9, 3.2(a)

perception, 11

spouses, and, 13, 3.2(c)(i), 3.2(d), 15.3(a)

 common law, 13

 defined, 15

 “marital harmony”, 15

 same sex, 15

 spousal incompetence, 13

Canada Evidence Act and, 13

 accused and spouse, 13

 communications during marriage, 14

 failure to testify, 14

 idem, 13

 offences against young persons, 14

 saving, 14

 common law and, 13

 statute and, 13

Contempt of Court: see also **Compelling Attendance, Failure to Attend, Foreign Letters Rogatory, Refusal to Testify, Subpoena**

authority to punish and, 74

conduct amounting to, 74, 8.3(c)(ii)

procedures, 75, 8.3(e)

Corroboration

conviction for perjury and, 81

perjury and, 81, 9.3(b)(iv)

Credibility and Weight

assessment, 167, 11.1

- credibility, 167
- “data”, 167
- demeanour, role of, 167
- attacking credibility, 179, 186, *11.5(d)*
 - good faith basis for questioning, 179, *11.5(b)*
 - “fishing expeditions”, 179
 - rules of professional conduct and, 180
 - limits in questioning the accused, 185
 - bad character, 186, *11.5(d)(v)*
 - exception, 187
 - defence puts character “in issue”, 187
 - explaining actions of witnesses, 185
 - right to disclosure, 186
 - silence of accused, 185, *11.5(d)(i)*
- relevance, 179
- sexual experience, 181, *11.5(c)*
 - consent and, 181
 - Criminal Code*, ss. 276, 277, 181
 - in camera* s. 276 hearing, 184
 - jury warning and, 184
 - specific prior incident, 183
- collateral issue rule, 187, *11.6*, *11.7*
 - exceptions, 187, *11.7*
 - bias, 192, *11.7(c)*
 - interest in outcome, 192, *11.7(c)*
 - prior convictions, 187, *11.7(a)*
 - admissibility, 188-189
 - prior inconsistent statements, 191, *11.7(b)*
 - Canada Evidence Act* and, 191-192
 - reputation in the community, 192, *11.7(d)*
 - “community” defined, 193
 - jury caution, 193
 - limits, 193
- enhancement, 169, *11.3*
- failure to cross-examine, 194, 2.4
 - rule in *Browne v. Dunn*, 194, 2.4
 - weight and, 195
- oath helping, 169, *11.3*
 - counsel and, 169
 - criminal cases, 170
 - good character, 170
 - rule against, 169
- prior consistent statements, 170, *11.4(b)*
 - fabrication and, 173, *11.4(c)(i)*
 - rule against, 170

- exceptions, 171, *11.4(b)*
 - accused on arrest, statements by, 178
 - cases of a sexual nature, 174
 - general theory of exceptions, 171
 - “narrative” exception, 174, *11.4(c)(iv)*
 - prior identification of a suspect, 175, *11.4(c)(ii)*
 - recent complaint exception, 173, *11.4(c)(iv)*
 - videotape evidence by child witness, 176, *11.4(c)(iii)*
- self serving evidence, 169
 - rule against, 169

Cross-examination

- failure to cross-examine, 194, 2.4
 - rule in *Browne v. Dunn*, 194, 2.4
 - weight and, 195
- generally, 27, 2.4, 2.5(a)

Crown Privilege: see **State Secrets**

- Crown officials, 16, 5.2(a)
 - constitutional theory and, 16
 - discovery and, 16
 - high officials, 16

Disclosure: see **Preparation for Trial**

- alibi witness, 58
 - disclosure, 58
 - test for adequate disclosure, 58
- expert witnesses, 59
 - statutory disclosure, 59
 - sanctions for non-disclosure, 59
- limits in questioning the accused, 185
 - right to disclosure, 186
- locating witness, 56
 - criminal, 57
 - Crown disclosure, 57

Evidence: see also **Admissibility, Credibility, Exclusion of Evidence, Expert Witness, Hearsay Rule, Relevance**

- admissibility of, 1
- expert, 145
- generally, *1.1*
- relevance and, 1

Examination for Discovery: see **Preparation for Trial**

- Crown officials, 16, 5.2(a)

- constitutional theory and, 16
- discovery and, 16
- excluding witnesses, 35, 2.3
 - presumption of exclusion, 35
 - criminal cases, 38
 - accused and, 38
 - discovery and, 37

Examination-in-Chief

- generally, 27, 2.5(a)

Exclusion of Evidence

- excluding witnesses, 35, 2.3
 - presumption of exclusion, 35
 - criminal cases, 38
 - accused and, 38

Exclusion of Witnesses

- excluding witnesses, 35, 2.3
 - presumption of exclusion, 35
 - criminal cases, 38
 - accused and, 38

Expert Opinion: see also **Expert Witness**

- opinion, 161
 - admissibility, 161-162
 - basis of, 161
 - opinion evidence, 145

Expert Witness: see also **Expert Opinion**

- admissibility, 145, 10.1
 - expert evidence, 145
- exclusionary rules, 163
- necessity, 151, 10.3
 - behavioural characteristics, 153-156, 10.3(b)(iii)
 - helpfulness to trier of fact, 152
 - outside the experience/knowledge of a judge/jury, 152-153, 10.3(b)
 - question of law, 156-158
- opinion, 161
 - admissibility, 161-162
 - basis of, 161
 - opinion evidence, 145
- qualifications, 158, 10.5
 - independence, 159
 - quality and scope, 158

- weight and, 158
- relevance, 146, *10.2*
 - prejudicial defect, 147, *10.2(b)*
 - probative value, 147, *10.2(a)*
 - reliability, 147, *10.2(b)*
 - novel scientific theory, 148, *10.2(b)*
 - generally, 148-150
 - test, 148
- weight, 147, *10.7*

Fact

- opinion and, 6
- witness and, 6

Failure to Attend: see also **Contempt of Court, Compelling Attendance, Foreign Letters Rogatory, Inability to Testify, Refusal to Testify**
generally, 77, *8.1*, *8.2*, *8.3(c)(i)*

Failure to Testify

- accused, 21
 - co-accused and, 21
- generally, *8.1*, *8.2*

Foreign Letters Rogatory In Canada

- generally, 103, *19.2(a)*, *19.2(b)*, *19.4(a)*

Hostile Witness: see also **Adverse Witness**

- impeaching own witness, 81
- lying, 82
- test, 82

Hearsay Rule

- generally, 107
- major exceptions to rule, 116
 - admissions by party, 117
 - business records, 122
 - co-conspirator exception, 124
 - declarations against interest, 121
 - dying declarations, 127
 - general approach, 116
 - spontaneous utterances, 119
 - statements of mental or physical condition, 120
- offered to prove truth, 112
 - implied assertions, 113
 - non-hearsay, common examples of, 112

out-of-court statements, 109
 animals, statements by, 109
 basic definition, 109
 instruments, statements by, 109
 machines, statements by, 109
 prior statements by witnesses, 111
principled exception, 127
 necessity, 131
 reliability, 127

Hypnosis

hypnosis, 94, *13.5*
memory aids, 94

Inability to Testify: see also Contempt of Court, Compelling Attendance, Foreign Letters Rogatory, Inability to Testify, Refusal to Testify

civil cases, 100, *19.2(a)*
 inability to testify, 100, *19.1*
generally, 77

Interpreters

language choice, 68, *2.6(b)*
 Charter, section 14, 69, *2.6(b)*
 pre-*Charter* jurisprudence and, 69
 common law, 68
 interpreter and, 68

Memory: see also Past Recollection Recorded

hypnosis, 94, *13.5*
past recollection recorded, 91, *13.3*
present memory revived, 89, *13.2*

Oath

children and, 133, *4.2*
evidence erroneously not taken under oath or affirmation, 10
generally, 9, *3.2(a)*
history, 9
solemn affirmation, 10, *3.2(a)*

Opinion

fact and, 6
witness and, 6
 permitted opinion and, 6

Order of Witnesses

general, 27, 2.3

Parliament

compellability of members, 17, 18.1, 18.2, 18.3

Parliamentary Privilege: see **Parliament**

members of parliament, 17, 5.2(a)

in session, 17

parliamentary privilege, 17

Past Recollection Recorded: see also **Memory**

factors, 92

generally, 91, 13.3, 13.4

trustworthiness, 91

Perjury

generally, 79, 9.1, 9.3

corroboration, 81, 9.3(b) (iv)

falsity of statement, 79, 9.3(b) (i)

intent to mislead, 80, 9.3(b) (iii)

knowledge of falsity, 80, 9.3(b)(ii)

Preparation for Trial: see also **Witnesses****Present Memory Revived:** see **Memory, Past Recollection Recorded**

admissibility, 89

generally, 89

police officer, 90

Prior Consistent Statements: see **Credibility and Weight**

rule against, 170

exceptions, 171

Prior Inconsistent Statements: see **Credibility and Weight, Memory, Adverse Witness, Hearsay Rule**

generally, 191

Privilege: see also **Self-Incrimination, Parliament**

generally, 15.3

Protection of Witnesses: see also **Credibility and Weight, Privilege, Publicity, Self-Incrimination, Right to Counsel**

emotional harm, 214

courtroom and, 214

- judicial consideration, 215
- judicial discretion and, 214
- vulnerable witnesses, 214
- immunity from civil action, 205
 - abuse of process and, 206
 - immune to being sued for damages, 206
 - law of defamation and, 205
 - privilege and, 205
- independent counsel, 197, 20.2
 - Bill of Rights* and, 198
 - Charter* and, 198
 - “ordinary” witness, 197
 - witness as party, 197
- publicity, 199, 20.3, 20.3(a)
 - protection from, 199
 - in camera hearing, 200, 20.3(b)
 - Charter* and, 199, 20.3
 - civil cases and, 202
 - Criminal Code* and, 200
 - exceptional circumstances, 200
 - media and, 201
 - publication ban, 202
 - cases of a sexual nature, 202
 - civil cases and, 204
 - Criminal Code* and, 202
 - factors, 204
 - balancing of interests, 204
 - identity, 202, 30.2(c)
 - media and, 202
 - testimony, 202
 - witnesses, 202
 - pseudonym, 199
 - young witnesses, 203
- statutory protections, 207
 - harm, from, 207, 20.5
 - intimidation, from, 207, 20.5
 - retribution, from, 207
 - contempt, 210
 - establishment of, 212
 - “likelihood of harm”, 214
 - intimidation, 209, 20.5
 - prohibited conduct and, 209-210
 - obstruction of justice, 208-209
 - threats and, 209

Provincial Legislature: see **Parliament**

Publicity

generally, 20.3

protection from, 199
witnesses, 199

Re-examination

generally, 28, 2.5(b), 17.4

Refusal to Testify: see also **Compelling Attendance, Contempt of Court, Failure to Attend, Inability to Testify, Foreign Letters Rogatory**

civil liability for refusing to testify, 78
generally, 77, 8.1

Relevance: see also **Admissibility, Evidence, Expert Opinion**

as limiting criteria, 1
defined, 2, 1.1, 11.1

Re-opening case

re-opening the case, 32, 2.5(c)(i)
application to, 32
criteria, 32
criminal cases and, 34, 2.5(c)(ii)
judgment entered, 32
test, 34

Right to Counsel: see also **Privilege, Self-Incrimination**

Self-Incrimination: see also **Privilege**

Spouse

spouses, and, 13, 3.2, 5.5, 15.3
common law, 13
defined, 15
“marital harmony”, 15
same sex, 15
spousal incompetence, 13
Canada Evidence Act and, 13
accused and spouse, 13
communications during marriage, 14
failure to testify, 14
idem, 13
offences against young persons, 14
saving, 14

- common law and, 13
- statute and, 13

State Secrets

- general, *16.1*

Subpoena: see also Compelling Attendance

- subpoenaing witnesses, 38
 - civil litigation, 38
 - within province, 38
 - criminal litigation, 39
 - within province, 39
 - generally, 38, *7.1*, *7.2(a)*, *7.3*
 - inter-provincial, 40, *7.2(b)*, *7.3*
 - criminal cases and, 41
 - setting aside, 41
 - procedure, 43
 - civil proceedings, 43
 - timing, 44
 - criminal proceedings, 44
 - reasons, 41
 - abuse of process, 42
 - Charter* violation, 43
 - health risk to witness, 43
 - no material evidence, 41
- trial judge, 45
 - power to call witness, 45
 - criminal proceeding, 45
 - guidelines, 45

Summons: see Compelling Attendance, Subpoena**Testimony**

- civil hearing and, 22
 - criminal hearing, use at, 22
- hearsay rule, 107
 - generally, 107
 - major exceptions to rule, 116
 - admissions by party, 117
 - business records, 122
 - co-conspirator exception, 124
 - declarations against interest, 121
 - dying declarations, 127
 - general approach, 116
 - spontaneous utterances, 119

- statements of mental or physical condition, 120
- offered to prove truth, 112
 - implied assertions, 113
 - non-hearsay, common examples of, 112
- out-of-court statements, 109
 - animals, statements by, 109
 - basic definition, 109
 - instruments, statements by, 109
 - machines, statements by, 109
 - prior statements by witnesses, 111
- principled exception, 127
 - necessity, 131
 - reliability, 127
- “predominant purpose”, 23

Trial Process

- generally, 17.1, 17.4
- witness and, 1

Tribunals

- generally, 17.4
- members, 18
 - compellability, 18, 17.3, 5.2(c)

Video-Conference, Testifying by

- civil cases, 100, 19.3(a)
 - considerations, 100
- criminal cases, 102, 19.3(b)
 - Criminal Code*, 714.1 and 714.2, 102
- generally, 99, 19.3

Weight: see Credibility and Weight

- expert witness, 145
 - qualifications, 158, 10.5
 - weight and, 158
- relevance, 146
- weight, 147
- failure to cross-examine, 194, 2.4
 - rule in *Browne v. Dunn*, 194-195, 2.4
 - weight and, 195
- memory aids, 94
 - hypnosis, 94
 - criteria, 94
 - weight, 95

Witness: see also **Calling of Witnesses, Accused, Adverse Witness, Coaccused, Cross-examination, Hostile Witness**

- absent witness, 97
 - commission evidence and, 97
 - accused and, 99
 - foreign jurisdiction, 97
 - rules, 98
 - letters rogatory and, 98
 - materiality, 97
 - generally, 97
- alibi witness, 58
 - disclosure, 58
 - test for adequate disclosure, 58
- communication with, 55
 - communication between witnesses, 67
 - judicial order not to communicate, 67
 - ramifications of breach of order, 68
 - jury direction and, 68
 - during trial, 65, 6.3
 - during testimony, 65
 - provincial variations, 66
 - rules of professional conduct and, 65
 - no property in, 55
- contacting, 60
 - physicians, 63
 - duty of confidentiality towards patients, 63
 - represented witnesses, 61
 - exception to no property in witness rule, 61
 - improper communications, 63
 - unrepresented witnesses, 60
- contesting admissibility of, 50
 - objecting and failure to object, 50
 - voir dire, 51
- expert witnesses, 59, 2.1
 - statutory disclosure, 59
 - sanctions for non-disclosure, 59
- failure to cross-examine, 194, 2.4
- interviewing, 64
- judge's role in questioning, 29
 - child custody cases, 30
 - clarification, 30
- juror's questions, 31
- language choice, 68
 - Charter*, section 14, 69
 - pre-*Charter* jurisprudence and, 69

- common law, 68
 - interpreter and, 68
- official languages legislation, 70
 - by right, 70
- locating, 56
 - civil, 56
 - discovery, 56
 - criminal, 57
 - Crown disclosure, 57
 - Charter* and, 58
- testimonial aids, 93
 - cross-examination, 93
 - documents and, 93
 - memory aids, 94
 - hypnosis, 94
 - criteria, 94
 - weight, 95
 - truth drugs, 94
 - procedure in use, 93
- troublesome witness, 73
 - adverse party as witness, 84
 - adverse witness, 83
 - contempt of court, 74
 - conduct amounting to, 74
 - examples, 74
 - procedures, 75
 - criminal trial, 75
 - summary procedure, 75
 - punishment, 74
 - authority, 74
 - common law power, 74
 - failure to attend/ answer, 74, 76
 - civil cases, 73
 - criminal cases, 73
 - statutory provisions, 73
 - strict liability, 78
 - hostile witness, 81
 - lawful excuse, 77
 - examples, 78
 - perjury, 79
 - corroboration, 81
 - falsity of statement, 79
 - onus on Crown, 79
 - full subjective knowledge of falsity, 80
 - qualification of false statement, 80

- “statement” defined, 79
 - intention to mislead, 80
 - mental element, 80
 - under threat, 80
- refusal to testify, 78
 - civil liability, 78
 - tort and, 78
 - payment of costs, 78