

## **George Caines, QC**

### ***Vision and Leadership***

While he would never say this of himself, George Caines has quietly earned his reputation as one of our region's most distinguished Business advisor and leaders and been instrumental in the growth and long term success of both Stewart McKelvey, the largest law firm in Atlantic Canada, and some of this country's most successful companies, including Emera and the Bragg Group, just to name a few. Throughout George's career he has demonstrated outstanding leadership and vision all while cultivating a trusted advisor reputation for his ability, integrity and strength. Letters of support from Purdy Crawford, Sir Graham Day, John Bragg, Jim Eisenhower, David Bentley and other business leaders attest to George's vision, leadership and role as trusted advisor.

He has assumed many roles, including most notable as a managing partner and a leader at Stewart McKelvey. Perhaps one of George's most visible contributions to Stewart McKelvey came when the idea emerged to pursue a ground breaking Atlantic Provinces partnership. As managing partner, at the time, of the firm's Nova Scotia office (and roles as member and then chair of the firm's Partnership Board), George's strategy and influence helped to further cement the firm's position as the largest and leading law firm in Atlantic Canada via the merger and development of the strong regional partnership.

A partner in Stewart McKelvey's Halifax office since the 1960s, George has built a leading practice in the areas of Corporate/Commercial, Owner Managed Business, Public - Private Partnerships, Property Leasing and Mergers & Acquisitions. George's hard work has led his clients to extraordinary business heights, while his example has helped set the tone for the firm's corporate culture. George acted as chair of Nova Scotia Power Inc. and was a long-time director of Nova Scotia Power and Emera and was only succeeded in these roles last year.

Throughout his 16 years with Nova Scotia Power, he helped to shape two pivotal initiatives, including the company's cleaner energy program and customer service transformation.

### ***National Impact***

In the revealing best-selling book, *Titans: How the New Canadian Establishment Seized Power*, George Caines is described as a "who's who" of Nova Scotia's business network-one of the "Cod Fathers", if you will, of a reinvigorated thrust of Atlantic Canadian economic development.

Competitively, the success of his clients speaks for itself. His practice focuses largely on private, small-to-medium-sized companies, many of which are now leaders within the region and have grown into multi-million or billion dollar national and international enterprises.

Tellingly, throughout their growth, George has remained a trusted advisor to their senior management teams, integral to many business decisions made on behalf of those companies. His clients trust him to provide them with knowledgeable, strategic advice; guidance that has given them the edge they needed to face whatever challenge came next, no matter how ambitious.

While not in or seeking the limelight, the letters of support of the nomination from Nova Scotia business leaders who have made a national impact demonstrate that George has been behind the scenes giving shape to, and realizing the success of, some of this country's most successful corporations. They continue to seek George's guidance because they trust he will continue to work hard on their behalf and they know he has their best interests in mind. He embodies what is best about Atlantic Canada, on a national business stage.

### ***Civic Leadership***

George has been involved in some of the province's most visible business deals. But what is not as visible is all of his many contributions to the community, for which George has continuously shown the same level of dedication as he demonstrates in his work. His contributions have been numerous and significant. He has been a member of various organizations that are designed to strengthen the local community. They include roles as:

- President of the Neptune Theater;
- Treasurer and chair of the Halifax Grammar School;
- Board member of the Northwood Foundation;
- Board member of the CNIB (N.S. Division);
- Board member of the Victorian Order of Nurses;
- Board member of Junior Achievement; and
- Treasurer of the Saint George's Historical Round Church Restoration Committee.

In addition to the above roles, George has become widely known as a strong yet quiet supporter of local, regional companies, organizations and subsidiaries that lend to the strengthening of Atlantic Canada-and not relying on the rest of the country for our region's economic growth and well-being. The time he has dedicated to these companies, as a trusted partner and advisor, is immeasurable.

### ***Role Model***

George has been practicing law for over 50 years throughout which time he has consistently led others by example.

Having worked with early leaders in the firm, including Frank Manning Covert and J. William E. Mingo, George says he learned quickly that at Stewart McKelvey the most important thing was to work hard - if you worked hard and became a good lawyer, you were able to best serve clients and the rest took care of itself.

Staying true to this philosophy, George's hard work has led the firm and his clients to extraordinary business heights. Within the firm, in addition to his leadership role in the success of Stewart McKelvey, he has acted as a mentor and role model. He set the tone for the way the entire firm conducts business and practice. George provides the lawyers and staff at Stewart McKelvey with a model of behavior and sets a standard of client service that has permeated throughout the firm. He continuously demonstrates a quiet persistence, vision and leadership through his actions and interactions with everyone he works with. However, perhaps most powerful is the example he sets with his quiet, unassuming, persistent hard work on behalf of his clients, which has resulted in his role as trusted advisor to leading businesses in Nova Scotia.

His has accepted many formal mentoring roles, such as teacher, presenter, or business collaborator. He has also made significant contributions as an informal mentor to almost everyone he's worked with. His guidance has translated into success for the businesses and community leaders who he has worked with over many years.

Source: JA Files