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News Canada

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Don't count cash yet: Lawyer

By **VIVIAN SONG**, TORONTO SUN



- Women who have paid a price
- The high cost of a cheatin' heart
- Your say: Divorce decision

Spurned spouses take note: A cheating husband does not a cheque for thousands of dollars make.

That's the opinion of Jacqueline Peeters, a family law lawyer in Toronto who may have poured cold water on a few justice-seeking partners.

"I don't think it's a significant precedent because the circumstances are quite particular," said Peeters, of Birenbaum, Steinberg, Landau, Savin and Colrairie.

The Supreme Court ordered Gary Leskun to continue paying his ex-wife \$2,250 a month, almost eight years after he dumped her for another woman. They had been married for 20 years.

'NOT SURPRISING'

"Given the length of his marriage and her contributions, it's not surprising his appeal was dismissed," Peeters said. "I don't think there's a huge shift here."

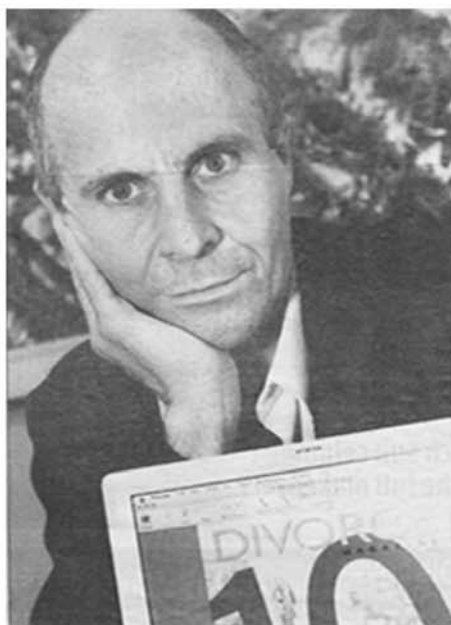
Dan Couvrette, publisher of Divorce Magazine and a divorcee himself, balked at the judgment, but added the ruling may force couples to look long and hard at marriage.

"Based on this judgement, it sounds like you'll be responsible for the person you marry for the rest of your life. It may force people to reconsider getting married," he said. But people have to be responsible for themselves, Couvrette, 51, said.

According to the magazine's online poll, infidelity is the No. 1 cited reason for divorce among their readers.

Previous story: The high cost of a cheatin' heart

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