

My background is far from extraordinary, but I have had some amazing opportunities to work with and learn from many gifted, senior lawyers. I received my BA English Honours degree in 2002, and LLB from the University of Saskatchewan in 2005. In 2006, I articulated at Kanuka Thuringer LLP in Regina, going on to become an associate in 2007 and partner in 2010, working primarily in the areas of family and criminal law. From 2011 to 2012, I acted as counsel to the Ministry of Social Services, at Civil Law Branch, Ministry of Justice. From 2012 to 2014, I was an associate at WMCZ in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, practicing primarily in the area of family law. From 2014 to the present, I have been a staff solicitor at Regina Rural Legal Aid, practicing in the areas criminal defence, family and child protection law. I regularly conduct chambers, trial and appellate work. I am a board member with Pro Bono Law, and present continuing legal education materials primarily in the area of family and child protection law.

In considering the prospect of becoming a Benchler, I reflected on what I hope to contribute to the profession if elected. One of the things I view as important, if simplistic, is the need to assist our fellow lawyers not only through practice tools and regulation, but through genuine support, compassion and extension of resources. The legal profession is fraught not only with intellectual and practice challenges, but an array of personal challenges that impact each and every lawyer in varied ways. I will draw on my own personal successes and challenges when promoting professional, educational, regulatory, self-care based assistance resources at the law society. Unifying members of our profession is important my humble view. Key to this unification is finding common experiences and problem solving strategies. I would like to find ways as a benchler to infuse our profession with ongoing doses of humanity, which in turn yields enhanced public services.

My experience with Legal Aid has provided me with a level of insight into the socio-economic and access to justice issues our public is faced with, along with an understanding of the complex problems that face lawyers in addressing the high-volume and often overwhelming needs of clients riddled with poverty, health, and addictions issues. Lawyers facing these practice dynamics require a specialized level of support and resources. Understanding the specific challenges involved with accessible justice further lends itself to my desire to improve the profession's delivery of these services in an effective and compassionate manner.