

## **JAMES KORPAN, Q.C.**

I was born and raised in Regina. I graduated from the U of R in 1989 with Bachelor of Arts majoring in Political Science and obtained my LLB from the University of Saskatchewan in 1992. I articulated with the firm of McDougall Ready and became a Partner in the firm of McDougall Gauley in 1998. I obtained my Queen's Counsel designation in 2017. I am married and have two boys, ages 8 and 20.

I feel it is my duty to seek election as a Bencher. I owe my career and livelihood to our profession and feel it is time to give something back.

My experience provides me with a perspective that would assist me in being an effective Bencher. I practice primarily in the areas of criminal law and family law, where counsel have different but equally important roles. Criminal law requires the zealous defence of my clients and their rights. In criminal law, counsel serves the justice system as much as they serve their clients. Family law is a more nuanced exercise, employing judgment to select the best option for the particular client in his or her unique circumstances. This is essential to the success of what is always a painful, but important transition for those undergoing separation. Over the years I have seen first-hand the dynamic challenges facing counsel. I have also learned a good deal about the clients' perspectives and strategies for managing their needs during what is always a highly stressful time for them.

Through this experience, I have developed relationships with a broad spectrum of counsel, including those in private practice, at legal aid, as well as those employed by the Federal and Provincial Crowns.

I am familiar with law-related organizations and board governance. I am Past President of the STLA and remain involved with this organization. I present regularly at both STLA and CBA seminars. Since 2012, I have been recognized by *Best Lawyers in Canada* in the area of family law.

What I feel best qualifies me to serve as a bencher is my extensive experience with lawyers' wellness programs. Improving lawyers' lives has always been my passion. I served as President of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers for several years before I was elected National Chair of the Legal Professionals Assistance Conference of the Canadian Bar Association. The experience provided a rich education as to the corrosive effect which our profession can have on the physical and mental health of our members. I attended and participated in dozens of seminars across Canada and the United States aimed at developing more effective strategies for enhancing lawyer wellness and helping members cope with the stress of what is always a demanding job. I am well-versed in the interplay between lawyer wellness and reducing the risk of misconduct, defalcations, and claims. I believe this experience uniquely qualifies me to assist in the governance of our profession.

I am also active in the community at large. I am an avid cyclist and have served as President of the Regina Cycle Club since 2016, organizing weekly races throughout the spring and summer. I organize weekly social rides which are attended by lawyers within and outside my firm. I designed and groom a 7 km urban cross country ski trail system in Les Sherman Park. I have served as the male coach for the Regina Ski Club Nordic Racing Team, including at the 2014 Saskatchewan Winter Games. I also enjoy downhill skiing, recreational hockey, and wilderness canoe travel.

I would be grateful for an opportunity to serve.