

Craig Zawada, Q.C. grew up in Shell Lake, SK, and attended the University of Saskatchewan's College of Commerce (now Edwards School of Business). After obtaining his LL.B. at Osgoode Hall in Toronto and working for a time in Calgary, he returned to Saskatchewan and has practiced in Saskatoon since 1987. Craig's practice has focused on intellectual property law, plus work in corporate acquisitions and agricultural contracting.

In 1996 he helped found WMCZ Lawyers and was CEO for 9 years. He became the firm's Director of Boundary Pushing in 2016, a position that leverages his skills in technology, marketing and strategic planning.

Craig has been active in community and non-legal organizations through his career. Some of his roles have included Chair of the Saskatchewan Research Council, University of Saskatchewan Senate, Trustee and Treasurer for Saskatoon's Mendel Art Gallery and the CanLII national board of directors. Craig taught Intellectual Property Law for many years at the U of S College of Law.

Craig developed a strong interest in corporate governance issues through the Director's College program. He obtained his Chartered Director designation and continues as a faculty member for the College. He also conducts training and consultation on governance issues for a variety of businesses and non-profit organizations.

After he was appointed a Bencher by the Law Society in 2014, Craig was re-elected in 2015. He was elected President of the Law Society for 2018.

Craig has discovered that running 9 marathons is about enough to cure him of that habit, although he can't bring himself to stop running completely. He and his wife Dianne Martin enjoy exploring Canada and the US on their motorcycle.

### **Reasons for Running**

When I ran for election as a Bencher in 2015, I think I made some attempts at humour around my lack of political acumen, and a sincere distaste for having to glorify myself to seek an elected post. 3 years later, I have no additional political skills and am still reluctant to talk about myself. Yet I must, to explain why I am running in what I can only hope will be the last election I will ever subject myself to in my life.

My 4 years as a Bencher has been, without exaggeration, one of the highlights of my legal career. I have gained so much insight into the regulation of legal services, but especially value the chance to talk with our members about their ideas for the profession.

I will not recount the successes we have enjoyed as Benchers over the past few years, as I think it is more useful to focus on what will come next.

The Law Society has increasingly turned its attention toward managing the future of the legal profession. Like almost every other part of society, law has experienced accelerating change. Cracks have appeared while disruptors like the internet and social media have gained traction. It is not an overstatement to say that the practice of law in 10 years will be vastly different than we have experienced to date.

This is our reality. We could fight against it. Other industries have tried, mostly unsuccessfully. Or we can treat it as an opportunity which will create new avenues for success.

For example, we can use technology to change how information is handled and analyzed at both the Law Society and practitioner levels. Lawyers are the original knowledge-based business, after all. Taking advantage of information technology fits exactly within our skills and goals.

The Law Society has often been seen, with justification, as an organization that tells its members what they cannot do. Given we are a regulatory and disciplinary body, this is not a surprising view.

Yet it ignores the value which the Law Society can and should bring to its members and other stakeholders. Instead of just saying “don’t do that”, why can we not offer “try doing this”? We have collective resources and knowledge that can be shared with lawyers across the province. Not only does it help lawyers be better with their businesses, it ultimately supports the Law Society’s goal: protecting the public through improved competency and access.

The disruption of legal regulation by the internet and the decreasing influence of provincial and national borders means that Saskatchewan’s Law Society, like all others, must adapt to a much different environment. Although those changes are sometimes seen as problems, they also represent opportunities. We have a leadership role among Canadian law societies that belies our relatively small size. Saskatchewan can be a trailblazer in defining how legal services are delivered and regulated in the future.

As far as my background goes, I grew up in Shell Lake, SK. After attending Osgoode Hall and then working in Calgary, I returned to this province and have practiced in Saskatoon since 1987. I have worked in intellectual property law, commercial law and agricultural contracting. I was CEO of WMCZ Lawyers for many years, a firm I helped found in 1996. That experience has exposed me to major issues of governance, marketing and strategic planning.

I have tried to support community and non-legal organizations as well. Some of the roles have included Chair of the Saskatchewan Research Council, University of Saskatchewan Senate, Trustee and Treasurer for Saskatoon’s Mendel Art Gallery and the CanLII national board of directors. I taught Intellectual Property Law for several years at the U of S College of Law and currently am on the faculty of The Director’s College in board governance training.

I am incredibly lucky to be married to my wife Dianne Martin, and am proud of my two children; Daniel recently obtained his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Saskatchewan and Kate is in her final year of the Information Technology course at SaskPoly.

That is probably more than you want to know but more detail is available on my LinkedIn page or the WMCZ website.

I know it sounds clichéd but I do feel an obligation to give back to the profession which I am proud to be part of. We have traditions which go back centuries yet will change immensely in the next few years. I want to offer whatever skills I can to assist but I will only be a small part and will rely on plenty of help from all of our members. We know our profession will be different but we have the ability to shape it to continue to be a critical part of society.

I would be grateful for your support.