

BENCHERS' DIGEST

November 2012

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www.lawsociety.sk.ca

Bencher Election Results

Thomas Schonhoffer, Q.C.



Voting for the 2012 Bencher election closed on November 15, 2012.

Elections are always bitter sweet at the Law Society. Bitter because we lose a group of experienced Benchers that we have relied on for hearing panels, ethical guidelines and wise policy. Their work should be acknowledged and we thank Loreley Berra, Thomas Campbell, Eileen Libby, Q.C., Evert Van Olst, Gregory Walen, Q.C., Stephen Orlowski, Paul Korpan, Q.C., Peter Hryhorchuk and George Patterson for their contributions.

It's also an exciting time at the Law Society as we welcome new Benchers and new ideas.

This year, there were many constituencies that acclaimed both sitting Benchers and new Benchers as follows:

- Saskatoon – Heather Laing
- New Lawyer – Sean Sinclair
- East Central – David Rusnak
- South West – Robert Heinrichs
- Prince Albert – Ronald Parchomchuk
- North East – Thomas Healey
- North West – Miguel Martinez
- Central – David Chow

There was no candidate from the South East, so the Benchers, pursuant to the authority of Section 20 of *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*, may appoint a Bencher at November Convocation.

There were two elections; one for 4 Benchers in Saskatoon and another for 5 Benchers in Regina. The Law Society employed a new online election program this year and the verdict is that it was successful, both in terms of being cost-efficient and member friendly.

In Regina, the incumbents Michael Megaw, Q.C. and Darcia Schirr, Q.C. were re-elected, along with new Benchers Patrick Reis, Q.C., Perry Erhardt, Q.C. and Ronni Nordal.

In Saskatoon, Joel Hesje, Q.C. and Lorraine St. Cyr were re-elected, along with new Benchers Bruce Bauer and Jay Watson.

Continued on page 2...

Benchers Election Results

Continued...

I would be remiss in this article if I did not mention that the Law Society of Saskatchewan is well served by the Dean of the Law School and appointed Public Representatives. In total, there are 23 Benchers as follows:

Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Q.C.	Heather Laing	Darcia Schirr, Q.C.
Bruce Bauer	Miguel Martinez	Sean Sinclair
David Chow	Michael Megaw, Q.C.	Lorraine St. Cyr
Perry Erhardt, Q.C.	Lorne Mysko	Dr. Greg Stevens
Thomas Healey	Ronni Nordal	Della Stumborg
Robert Heinrichs	Ronald Parchomchuk	Jay Watson
Joel Hesje, Q.C.	Patrick Reis, Q.C.	South East Bencher - TBA
Laura Lacoursiere	David Rusnak	

Benchers represent the public interest, rather than the interests of members or constituencies. However, they are an important local resource that members can draw upon.

Highlights of the Meeting of Benchers

September 27 and 28, 2012

The Benchers debated amendments to Rule 432, requiring mutual disclosure in Discipline Hearings. The amendments are in keeping with the fact that the practice in Discipline Hearings is consistent with civil procedure, rather than criminal procedure. In addition, disclosure will result in a more efficient process for the hearing panel, counsel and the member.

The Benchers debated a change in the CPD Policy from a three year term to a one year term. Such a change is consistent with most other jurisdictions in Canada and facilitates those who are members in more than one jurisdiction. It also lessens the administrative burden of the CPD Policy. The resolution was tabled for further discussion.

The Benchers discussed proposed amendments to *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*. We are currently in discussion with the Department of Justice and will publish proposed changes for review by the membership in due course.

October 18, 2012

The only matter on the Agenda at the Bencher meeting was approval of the budget for 2013 and the annual practice fees.

The Benchers approved an increase of slightly less than 5% for the annual practicing fee in the amount of \$1,690 per member.

BENCHERS' DIGEST

The *Benchers' Digest* is published by the Law Society of Saskatchewan to update Saskatchewan lawyers on policy and regulatory decisions made by the Benchers after each Convocation, to inform members about Society programs and activities, and to provide news and announcements of interest to the legal profession. Members are encouraged to send in articles and photos of interest, however, publication rests with the Editor. Articles and photos can be submitted to llynchuk@lawsociety.sk.ca.

Current and archived issues may be viewed on the Law Society Website – see www.lawsociety.sk.ca, "Publications/Benchers' Digest."

EDITOR

Liz Lynchuk

President's Dinner 2012

September 28, 2012



Gregory Walen, Q.C. accepts the President's Certificate from Heather Laing, Vice-President.

The annual President's Dinner took place in Saskatoon at the Riverside Country Club on the evening of September 28th. There were 135 guests in attendance, including Minister Gordon Wyant, Q.C. and his wife Christine Hrudka, as well as guests from the Law Society of Manitoba: Jack Cram, President and Allan Fineblit, Q.C., CEO. Everyone was entertained by the *Skip Kutz Trio*, featuring Skip Kutz on bass, Maurice Drouin on piano, Hans Van Norren on drums and Shelley Ewing, vocals.

Heather Laing presented Gregory Walen, Q.C. with the President's Certificate for his term as President in 2012.

Director of Legal Resources



The Law Society of Saskatchewan is pleased to announce that Melanie Hodges Neufeld has assumed the role of Director of Legal Resources, a position that encompasses and expands upon the role of Director of Libraries. In addition to being responsible for the administration of the traditional library, Melanie will be responsible for developing and recommending a strategic plan for the management of legal information within the Law Society and the province. Other duties will include overseeing the provision of online information services to the membership, the education of members in legal research, the publication of legal information, and website design and maintenance.

Melanie is a graduate of the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. She articulated with Robertson Stromberg Pedersen (now McKercher LLP) in Regina. Following completion of her articles, Melanie moved to the Law Society to assume the position of Complaints Counsel. In February 2011, Melanie undertook the newly created position of Policy Counsel within the Law Society. In this role, Melanie provided legal research, advice and guidance for policy development and facilitated a coherent approach to policy development throughout the organization. Melanie was also named Equity Advisor at this time and was responsible for the promotion of equity and diversity in the legal profession in Saskatchewan and for developing

equity policy for the membership and the Law Society. In her role as Complaints Counsel, Policy Counsel and Equity Advisor, Melanie developed and presented several educational lectures on legal ethics for the membership. Prior to the development of the new Queen's Bench Rules, Melanie updated the Queen's Bench Rules Annotations.

Melanie is also close to completing her L.L.M. from the University of Saskatchewan in the area of Restorative Justice. Outside the practice of law, Melanie is kept busy with her new son and is an avid runner.

Continuing Professional Development

by: Andrea Johnston, Director of Admissions & Education

First Three-year Term Ends December 31, 2012

As all Saskatchewan lawyers know, the Law Society introduced a Continuing Professional Development Program which took effect January 1, 2010. Under the CPD Program, all active members are required to complete 36 hours of Accredited CPD Activities in the most current three-year term (6 of which must qualify for ethics hours). The first three-year term ends on **December 31, 2012**; therefore, you must meet the minimum CPD requirements by that date in order to avoid the consequences of non-compliance, namely administrative suspension. If you will not complete the minimum CPD requirements by the end of the term and you intend to submit a remedial CPD plan for approval (pursuant to Section 16 of the CPD Policy), you must do so prior to December 31, 2012.

Please note that the CPD term is a **three-year rolling period**. At the beginning of each new year, the calendar year that is four years prior to the current year will no longer be included in the term. This means that the current term at any given point in time consists of the most recent three calendar years ending on December 31 of the current calendar year. For clarification, on any day in 2013, the current term is the three-year period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013.

For **new members**, your three-year term starts January 1st of the year you were admitted. Therefore, for lawyers admitted in 2011 or 2012, your first

three-year term does not end this year, but rather, December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

Under the CPD Program, members are required to **self-report** their CPD hours online through their Member Profile on the Law Society website. This applies to all CPD activities, even those offered by the Law Society of Saskatchewan. We highly recommend that you report your CPD hours as you accumulate them to avoid missing any hours.

To date, approximately 82% of our active members have reported the required CPD hours and approximately 91% of our active members have reported the required ethics hours.

We regularly send emails to our members related to CPD requirements and programs. These emails are sent from cpd@lawsociety.sk.ca and will always contain "Law Society of Sask" in the subject line. It is crucial that our members receive these emails as they contain important information. **If you do not receive CPD emails, please confirm your email address is correct in your Member Profile** (accessible through the Law Society website).

For further information about the CPD Policy, refer to "Continuing Professional Development" on the Law Society website (www.lawsociety.sk.ca).

Mandatory Code of Professional Conduct Training

The Law Society adopted a new *Code of Professional Conduct* which took effect July 1, 2012. Since the *Code* is fundamental to our members' conduct

and the Law Society's function as regulator, training related to the new *Code* is mandatory and is being provided to our members at no cost.

All active members (including new members admitted this year) must complete the training by December 31, 2012. Therefore, if you have not already attended one of the sessions or registered for an upcoming session, you will need to do so very soon, as there are only a couple of live sessions left.

The training is also available via recorded webinar for members of the Law Society who do not reside in Saskatchewan (excluding members who reside in Lloydminster, Alberta) and in exceptional circumstances.

Members are responsible for reporting their 2 CPD hours for this training in the usual manner through their Member Profile on the Law Society website.

For further information or to register for the *Code* live training sessions or the recorded webinar, refer to "Continuing Professional Development" on the Law Society website or contact Linda Euteneier (CPD Administrative Assistant) at linda@lawsociety.sk.ca or 569-8242.

Upcoming CPD Activities

We are in the process of planning CPD activities for 2013. As well, we have a number of recorded versions of previous CPD activities that are available for purchase (which qualify for CPD hours). For the most up-to-date information about available CPD activities, refer to "Continuing Professional Development" on the Law Society website.

Tips From The Trenches

by: Law Society Practice Advisors

Procrastination

As is the case with so many of us, there is one file, if not more than one, that sits on the corner of our desk which we know needs our attention. It has been there quite a while. It requires, in our estimation, a good three hours of solid effort without interruption. We never seem to find those three hours and if we do, it is because there have been repeated requests for an update from our client, or worse, a complaint has been filed with the Law Society.

Delay is often a symptom of accumulated stress. All too many practitioners fail to alleviate the stress by taking vacation. A day here and there does little or nothing. Two to three weeks in a row is deemed preposterous, but that is what is needed to wind down. It can be done once client expectations are managed. It is necessary to manage stress by taking time to take care of yourself. That includes managing your practice – including the problem files – in order to take a well-deserved vacation.

Have a Plan for Each Open File

It is good practice to have a “plan” in place for each open file. That’s to say, what is the **objective** that the lawyer is intending to achieve for the client and how is the lawyer going to effectively

achieve that objective? A review of the file contents should disclose the plan.

After a review of the pleadings on a personal injury file, it should be clear where the file is heading. For example, are there expert opinions on liability and/or causation and/or damages in the file? Is the lawyer preparing for Examinations for Discovery? If so, has there been an exchange of Statement as to Documents? Is the file at the stage of potential settlement? If so, are there current medical reports in the file? In the file are there copies of letters to the client, emails to the client and attendance notes with the client in which the lawyer is periodically keeping the client informed of where things are at with respect to the file and what needs to be done?

In my capacity as a Practice Advisor, I have reviewed files in which there is no apparent “plan.” In other words, after thoroughly reviewing the file contents, I did not have a clear understanding of where the lawyer was heading on the file.

A well thought out plan will assist the lawyer in effectively managing the file towards the ultimate objective. A plan will help to manage the client’s expectations. Should a potential professional liability claim arise on the file, a plan will assist the lawyer

in defending the potential claim. Lastly, if the lawyer in charge becomes incapacitated, a well thought out plan will certainly assist in the transfer of the file to the lawyer taking over management of the file.

Wills

Next to car keys, Wills seem to be the most lost item on earth. Lawyers spend an inordinate amount of time searching for Wills. You can reduce this time dramatically by closing Wills files properly. Do not just give the client a receipt and close the file. Send a reporting letter to the client.

As with all files, a proper reporting letter allows you to create a record of the location of documents, unusual circumstances or anything else that may strike you as an issue that may arise later.

A letter like this, together with thorough notes on the file, will go a long way in serving your client and protecting you.

Changes at the Regina Library



After 26 years of service as a research librarian, Maxine Seeley has decided to retire at the end of this year. Parting is bitter-sweet; she is looking forward to retirement, but she will also miss working at the library. And we will miss her, too, as she has been a friend and a constant in the Regina library, always ready to assist, answer questions and do research. We do not want to lose her expertise and she has agreed to do contract work for the Law Society as projects arise.

Congratulations, Maxine!

Improper Use of Solicitor's Lien

by: Jennifer Houser, Complaints Counsel

There have been a number of complaints brought to the attention of the Law Society in recent months relating to Solicitor's Liens. Many complainants express frustration with their former lawyer's unwillingness to release their file upon assertion of a Solicitor's Lien, but in these cases the Law Society will rarely become involved. However, there have been other complaints relating to improper assertions of a Solicitor's Lien against client's real property. Two such matters were referred to the Ethics Committee for review, whereupon the committee directed a notice to the profession regarding improper use of Solicitor's Liens.

In the two separate matters before the Ethics Committee, a lawyer registered a Miscellaneous Interest against a client's real property through Information Services Corporation in order to secure payment of each lawyer's outstanding legal bills. In each matter, the committee determined that the client's real property was not the subject matter of the legal dealings the client had with

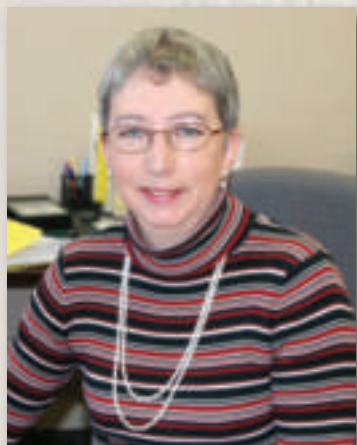
the lawyer, nor had the client expressly provided the lawyer an interest in the client's real property as security for payment of legal services.

The Ethics Committee determined that a lawyer does not have a right to register a Miscellaneous Interest against a client's real property to secure payment of a legal bill, and by doing so, the lawyer is taking advantage of ISC's current filing system. In the matters before the committee, the lawyers did not have a right or an interest in the client's real property, and as such, a registerable interest was not in the arsenal of weapons the lawyer could use to secure payment of a bill. The committee determined that a Solicitor's Lien, as outlined in s. 66 of *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*, allowed a lawyer to assert an interest over property the lawyer physically has in his or her possession, but determined that a Solicitor's Lien does not extend to real property. Please refer to Conduct Rulings 2012 SKLSPC 5 and 2012 SKLSPC 6 on the Law Society website for more details.

The Ethics Committee considered a broader rule in this area stating that if a lawyer wants to obtain security for payment of legal work in this manner, the lawyer should execute a security agreement with the client and advise the client to obtain independent legal advice in that regard. The committee states the lawyer would then gain an interest in the real property of a client in terms of securing payment of the legal bill. Otherwise, lawyers are free to utilize any other means available, statutorily or at Common Law, in order to procure payment of outstanding legal bills.

The Law Society would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to the members to contact Complaints Counsel should you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other ethical issue, as we would be more than happy to assist you.

35 Years of Service



Many of the members will have been in contact with Ruth Armstrong at one point or another, as she has been with the Law Society for 35 years.

Starting out as a Receptionist and working her way to becoming a highly regarded Office Administrator, she is admired by everyone at the Law Society and we cannot thank her enough for serving the Society all this time. Ruth is still too young to retire and we're glad she will continue to serve the Society for a few more years.

Judicial Appointments

The Honourable Lana Krogan-Stevely was appointed a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan. She will replace Mr. Justice T.C. Zarzeczny, who elected to become a supernumerary judge as of September 1, 2012.

Madam Justice Krogan-Stevely received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Regina in 1990 and a law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1993. She was admitted to the Bar in 1994.

Madam Justice Krogan-Stevely had been with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice since 2003, most recently as Executive Director of Court Services. Prior to this position, she practiced criminal law from 2002 – 2003 at the law firm of MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman. She was seconded to the Saskatchewan Police College from 2009 – 2012.

Madam Justice Krogan-Stevely served as a Bencher of the Law Society of Saskatchewan from 2000 – 2006 and continued her service to the Society as a representative on various boards and committees. She was a lecturer at many conferences for the Canadian

Police College, the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan and the RCMP Cadet Training Program. She also served as Chair and board member of the Regina Region RCMP Victim Services Program, was a senate member of the University of Regina and was a member of the Saskatchewan First Nations Awards Ceremony Committee.

The Honourable Robert Lane, Q.C. has been appointed a judge of the Provincial Court for LaRonge. Judge Lane is replacing Judge Felicia Daunt who is transferring to the Provincial Court in Prince Albert.

Judge Lane graduated from the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan, in 1979 and was called to the bar in 1980. He became managing partner with the Bradley and Lane law firm in Shellbrook in 1983, left private practice in 2004 to work in the Public Prosecutions Division as a Senior Crown Prosecutor, and was later appointed Regional Crown Prosecutor.

Judge Lane specialized in criminal law in central and northern Saskatchewan for 33 years. He also practiced civil litigation, including family law and

municipal law. He has been a long time member of the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association.

The Honourable William Campbell has been appointed a judge of the Provincial Court for Meadow Lake. Judge Campbell is replacing retiring Judge Jeremy Nightingale.

Judge Campbell was a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and was called to the Bar in 1985. He has worked in Swift Current, Maple Creek, Moose Jaw, Regina and Meadow Lake. In 1992 he left private practice to work in the Public Prosecutions Division and held various positions, including Regional Crown Prosecutor and later, Director of the High Risk Offender Unit. Before his appointment to the court, he was the National Flagging System Co-ordinator for Saskatchewan and was one of 15 co-ordinators across Canada responsible for all aspects of managing high risk violent offender prosecutions.

2013 Convocation Dates of the Benchers of the Law Society of Saskatchewan

February 13th, 14th and 15th – Saskatoon

April 24th, 25th and 26th – Nipawin

June 19th, 20th and 21st – Regina
(annual meeting set for evening of Thursday, June 20th)

September 26th and 27th – Saskatoon

October 9th – Conference Call to Approve Budget

November 28th and 29th – Regina

Many Thanks

by: Donna Sigmeth, Q.C., Complaints Counsel/Deputy Director

The Benchers and professional staff of the Law Society of Saskatchewan wish to express their sincere gratitude to members of the profession who volunteered their time to act as pro bono counsel to members facing discipline, to those who sat on Hearing Committees and to those who acted as "alternate" Complaints Counsel to review complaints against staff, Benchers or Bencher firms.

We would also like to extend thanks to Law Society members and members of the judiciary who have contributed their time as members of various Law Society Committees and as Law Society representatives to other organizations. We recognize that the vocation of law is demanding and greatly appreciate the invaluable contribution of the time given by Law Society members and members of the judiciary.

Many thanks to the following people...

Non-Bencher Volunteers for 2012

Law Society Committee Members and Representatives to Other Organizations:

Dwayne Anderson	Ken Koshgarian	Marusia Kobrynsky
Jamie Patterson	Patrick Kelly, Q.C.	Ken Neil
Michael Milani, Q.C.	Randy Sandbeck	Norma Sim, Q.C.
Shannon Metivier	William Nickel	Brian Hendrickson, Q.C.
Kathy Hodgson-Smith	Catherine Knox	Heather Jensen
Eric Neufeld, Q.C.	Patricia Quaroni	Robert Kennedy, Q.C.
Hon. Chief Justice J.M. Klebuc	John McIntosh, Q.C.	Gary Zabos, Q.C.
Hon. Chief Justice M.D. Popescul	Robert Gibbings, Q.C.	Randy Rooke, Q.C.
Professor Tim Quigley	The Hon. Lana Krogan-Stevely	Robert Kasian
Graeme Mitchell, Q.C.	Christine Glazer, Q.C.	Greg (George) Willows, Q.C.
Scott Hopley	Alan McIntyre	Ron Kruzeniski, Q.C.
Grant Scharfstein, Q.C.	Bruce Wirth	Jay Watson
Marianne Kramchynsky	Gary Young, Q.C.	
Jerome Tholl	Donna Taylor	

Designated Complaints Counsel:

Michael Fisher, Q.C.	Robert Kennedy, Q.C.	Leah Koskowsky (LS of MB)
John McIntosh, Q.C.	Lawrence Zatlyn, Q.C.	Brian Hendrickson, Q.C.
Ronni Nordal	The Hon. Lana Krogan-Stevely	

Conduct Investigation Committee:

John Will, Alma Wiebe, Q.C. and William Holliday

Many Thanks

Continued...

Volunteers for Education:

Andrea Argue	Thomson Irvine	Michelle Ouellette, Q.C.
Randy Baker, Q.C.	Hon. Judge M.D. Irwin	Yens Pedersen
Hon. Justice D.P. Ball	Robert (Bob) Kasian	Wayne L. Pederson
Lora Bansley	Marc Kelly	Chief Justice M.D. Popescul
L.J. Dick Batten, Q.C.	Erin Kleisinger	Sandra Potter
James Camplin	Ken Koshgarian	John Poyser
Professor Ronald Cuming, Q.C.	Marianne Kramchynsky	Amanda Quayle
Hon. Justice G.M. Currie	Hon. Justice J.I. Laskin	Hon. Justice R.G. Richards
Christopher Donald	Donald Layh, Q.C.	Randy Sandbeck
Richard Gibbons	Jeffrey M. Lee	Hon. Justice B.J. Scherman
Jim Gillis	Glen Lekach	Jeff Scott
Gwen V. Goebel	Andrew M. Mason	James Sproule
John Gormley, Q.C.	Meghan McCreary	Crystal Taylor
Brian Hendrickson, Q.C.	Gregory Murphy	Michael Tochor, Q.C.
Jamie Herle	Ralph Neuman	Brenda Walper-Bossence, Q.C.
Collin Hirschfeld	Bill Nickel	Patricia Warsaba, Q.C.
Lynn Hnatick	Douglas Osborn	Hon. Justice D.L. Wilson
R. Bradley Hunter, Q.C.		



Pro Bono Law
Saskatchewan

Benchers' Digest Report

Nicole Sarauer, Acting Executive Director
www.pblsask.ca

2013 GOWN TO GOWN LAWYERS' CHARITY GALA

The 2013 Lawyers' Charity Gala will be held on Friday, January 25, 2013 at the Hotel Saskatchewan Radisson Plaza in Regina. This annual event alternates between Saskatoon and Regina benefitting CLASSIC (Community Legal Services for Saskatoon Inner City) and Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan respectively. This will be the fourth annual Lawyers' Charity Gala and proceeds will benefit PBLS. The event is a great opportunity for Saskatchewan lawyers to enjoy an evening together while supporting access to justice across the province!

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting pblsask.ca/tickets. A charitable receipt will be issued for the donation portion of the ticket price. We look forward to seeing you there!

2012 PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

The 2012 Pro Bono Service Award will be presented at the 2013 Gown to Gown Lawyers' Charity Gala. PBLS and the Law Society of Saskatchewan established this annual award to recognize outstanding pro bono service in the province. To be eligible for the Pro Bono Service Award, an individual must be a resident of Saskatchewan, a member in good standing of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to access to justice in Saskatchewan, whether by delivering pro bono services, assisting with the establishment of pro bono programs, coordinating pro bono services, or educating or advocating to promote a pro bono culture. The deadline for nominations is **January 4, 2013**. Nomination information and forms are available online at www.pblsask.ca or by contacting the Executive Director of PBLS.



Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judicial Council

The Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judicial Council, acting under *The Provincial Court Act, 1998*, makes recommendations to the Minister of Justice on appointments to the Provincial Court.

Counsel who have been members in good standing of a Canadian Bar for at least 10 years, or who have other legal or judicial experience that is satisfactory to the Council, are invited to apply. The application form and information about the application process can be found under the Provincial Court tab on the www.sasklawcourts.ca website.

In 2013, the Provincial Court will have two vacancies in Regina – February 1st and June 1st.

Candidates wishing to be considered should submit their application before 7 December 2012, to:

Marlene Rodie, Executive Officer
Provincial Court Judicial Council
2425 Victoria Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 4W6

The current members of Council are Chief Justice Klebuc, Chief Justice Popescul, Chief Judge Snell, Judge Morin, Judge Singer, Paul Korpan, Q.C., Ron Thorstad and Ken Waschuk.

If you have any questions, contact Marlene Rodie at (306) 787-5409 or mrodie@sasklawcourts.ca.

Pro Bono Counsel for Members Facing Discipline

The Law Society of Saskatchewan is looking for volunteers to act as *pro bono* counsel to members facing discipline.

If you are prepared to volunteer time to represent a member in this situation, please contact Donna Sigmeth at dsigmeth@lawsociety.sk.ca.

Designated Complaints Counsel

Occasionally, the Law Society receives complaints against Benchers or staff. These complaints do not follow the usual procedure, but are referred to Designated Complaints Counsel.

In the past, we have looked to former Benchers to fill this role because of their experience and expertise in the discipline process.

If you can be of assistance in this regard, please advise Donna Sigmeth at dsigmeth@lawsociety.sk.ca.

Bar Admissions Program

Samuel J. Bergerman, Director of Bar Admissions, would like to congratulate Robert Affleck and Joanne Colledge for their exemplary performance in the 2011 - 2012 CPLED Bar Admissions Program. Robert and Joanne each received the Law Society's Award of Distinction for displaying the highest levels of academic achievement in the CPLED Program.

In Memory

Brian Chatwin of Edmonton passed away on November 1, 2012 and leaves behind his wife Sandy and 3 children, Jody Fehr, Adam Chatwin and Jacob Chatwin.

Michael Ryan, Q.C. passed away on July 29, 2012. He leaves behind his wife Janet and sons Sean and Peter.

Mike was born and raised in Regina and graduated from the U of S, but he obtained his law degree from Dalhousie University. He originally practised law in Alberta but moved back to Regina to become the long-time Director of the Regina Legal Aid Clinic, retiring in 2010. At the time of his death, he was working as a Senior Justice of the Peace for the Ministry of Justice.

Mike was a skilled woodworker, an accomplished brush painter (Japanese style) and vintner, producing many fine wines. He also golfed and enjoyed travelling and visiting different places. He was active in his community, serving as instructor, board member and President with the Regina YMCA. He also contributed his time to the United Way and the Boy Scouts.

The Hon. Allyre Sirois, former justice in the Court of Queen's Bench, passed away in Saskatoon on September 8, 2012. He was predeceased by his wife Madeline. He leaves behind six children: Valerie, Richard, Guy, Marianne, Lisa and Norman.

Justice Sirois was born in Vonda, SK in 1923. He served with the Canadian Army from 1941 – 1945. He was loaned out to the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II because of his radio skills and French speaking ability. He parachuted into occupied France in support of the French Resistance and Allied troops. Justice Sirois was awarded France's Croix de Guerre medal and named a member of the British Empire for bravery and service during wartime.

Justice Sirois attended the College of Law at the U of S and was called to the Bar in 1951. He practiced with the Culliton & MacLean law firm in Gravelbourg, SK from 1951 – 1964. He was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench in 1964 and served for 34 years. He was the first judge to preside over a French trial in Saskatchewan and was publicly recognized by l'Association des juristes francophones de la Saskatchewan. He served on the Court Martial Appeal Court and the Pension Appeal Board. He was also actively involved in many community associations in Gravelbourg.

* Excerpts rendered from obituaries printed in local newspapers.

EQUITY OMBUDSPERSON

The Office of the Equity Ombudsperson is committed to eliminating both discrimination and harassment in the legal profession.

If you are a support staff, articling student or lawyer within a law firm, you can contact the Equity Ombudsperson, Kathryn Ford, Q.C., for advice, information and assistance.
All information is confidential.

This office is not a lawyer referral service and cannot provide legal advice. Call **toll free: 1-866-444-4885**.

This office is funded by The Law Society of Saskatchewan

LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

Provides to Saskatchewan lawyers and their family members:

- CONFIDENTIAL assistance in effectively dealing with problems;
 - the services of an INDEPENDENT professional consultant;
 - services provided without charge

For confidential information and assistance call 1-800-780-5256.

The seal of the Law Society of Saskatchewan is a large, faint circular watermark in the background. It features a central crest with a book and a torch, surrounded by the text "LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN" and "VIRTUTUM A.D. 1907".

BENCHERS' DIGEST

Published by:

The Law Society of Saskatchewan
1100 - 2002 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
Canada S4P 0R7
Telephone (306) 569-8242
Fax (306) 352-2989
e-mail: reception@lawsociety.sk.ca