

BENCHERS' DIGEST



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Are We Protecting the Public??

by W. Brent Gough, Q.C.



W. Brent Gough, Q.C. is the 2004 President of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. Mr. Gough is a partner with the Hnatyshyn Gough law firm in Saskatoon and has been a Bencher since 2000.

“An independent Bar composed of lawyers who are free of influence by public authorities is an important component of the fundamental legal framework of Canadian society. In Canada, our tradition of allowing the legal profession to regulate itself can largely be

attributed to a concern for protecting that independence and to lawyers' own staunch defence of their autonomy.”

Finney v. Barreau du Quebec
(2004) S.C.C. 36

The above quotation from Mr. Justice LeBel's decision is in many ways the base upon which Law Societies are created. As stated in the *Law Society of British Columbia v. Mangat* (2001) S.C.C. 67,

“Provincial Law Societies or Bars are entrusted with the mandate of governing the legal profession with a view towards protecting the public when professional services are rendered.”

We are all aware and have heard repeatedly that the role of the Law Society is to protect the public, but what does that really mean and what are the consequences of not fulfilling that role?

There are two consequences which have a serious if not devastating effect upon Law Societies. The first consequence is the one seen in *Finney*. In that case, the court found

the Barreau du Quebec liable in damages to a member of the public who suffered moral harm as a result of the Barreau not diligently discharging its discipline function. The Law Societies, therefore, as a flip side of the coin of being granted self-regulatory authority, must carry out that mandate in a diligent manner and in good faith.

The second, and more devastating, consequence of a Law Society failing in its mandate to protect the public is the loss of the right of self-regulation. We have recently seen in both the United Kingdom and Australia a review and, in Australia, a reform of the complaint and discipline function of the Law Societies. In Queensland, for example, commencing in July of this year, the government has instituted a legal services commission which takes over the responsibility from the Queensland Law Society of investigating complaints against solicitors and deciding whether or not action should be taken.

Mr. David Clementi has prepared a report entitled Consultation Paper

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on the Review of the Regulatory Framework for Legal Services in England and Wales earlier this year. One of the major issues in that paper is whether it is appropriate to combine the regulatory functions of a professional body where the public interest has primacy with the representation functions where the interest of the members has primacy. These two roles are seen as conflicting, and one of the remedies

proposed is to simply remove the regulatory function from the Law Societies.

We are extremely fortunate in Canada to have separated the regulatory and representative functions into two separate organizations, being the Law Societies as the regulator, and the Canadian Bar Association as the representative organization for lawyers. This separation allows us to avoid the perception of conflict that has been

seen in both the United Kingdom and Australia. We must, however, be vigilant in our emphasis on the role of Law Societies as the protector of the public, not just as one of our mandates, but as our sole mandate. As Francis Gervais, the Past President of the Federation of Law Societies has stated,

“their primary purpose is to not to provide service to their members, but to protect the public’s interest”.

Highlights of the Meeting of Benchers held October 28th and 29th, 2004

No-Fault

For the last several years, the Law Society of Saskatchewan has been providing grants to the Joint CBA/Law Society No-Fault Committee on the basis that the work of the Committee was in the public interest. At the April Convocation, representatives of the Joint No-Fault Committee appeared before the Benchers outlining their proposals for Committee activities and the funding needs for 2004. At that time, the Benchers resolved that the Law Society should no longer provide ongoing funding to the Joint Committee but agreed that the Law Society would fund any current obligations of the Committee. Some of the concerns of the Benchers were that the activities of the Joint Committee were aimed towards changing the Government position on no-fault and that funding such endeavours was not productive, especially since no-fault had been in place for nine years.

Following the April decision, a resolution was presented to the Law Society Annual Meeting. The resolution passed by the members stated:

Resolution from Certain Members of the Saskatoon Bar Association

WHEREAS the imposition of the no-fault system in Saskatchewan affects the rights of all residents in Saskatchewan and raises issues of fairness, justice and access to the courts that require clarification and education for the public interest;

AND WHEREAS the Law Society of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Bar Association, Saskatchewan Branch, have been involved in a Joint Committee which has had the mandate of, among other things, continuing to educate the public as to the effect of the no-fault system on the accident victim’s legal rights and remedies and advocating for improvements to the compensation scheme for motor vehicle accident victims;

AND WHEREAS the work of the Joint No-Fault Committee has resulted in significant improvements to the compensation scheme for motor vehicle accident victims but there continues to be a need for the ongoing work of the Committee.

NOW THEREFORE *be it resolved that the Law Society of Saskatchewan continue to support and fund the ongoing work of the Joint No-Fault Committee.*

Members of the CBA/Law Society Joint No-Fault Committee appeared before the Benchers at the October Convocation asking that the issue of funding of the Joint Committee be reconsidered.

It was the position of the Committee members that the Joint No-Fault Committee has amassed a great deal of knowledge and expertise during its existence. The Joint Committee also believes that it has fairly widespread support among the membership, noting the support at the Annual Meeting, while acknowledging that some members are opposed to continued funding for the Committee. The Committee representatives stressed that the main focus of the Joint Committee is now education and communications, advising the Benchers that the public and lawyers need more information regarding the tort/no-fault options in order that the

driving public may make the best choice for their insurance coverage.

The Committee's proposed budget of \$35,880 for 2005 was significantly reduced from the amount requested at the April Convocation. The Joint Committee members advised that the Committee receives funding from the CBA Saskatchewan Branch in the amount of \$5,000 per year.

The Benchers noted that funds had been collected from the members for 2004 and that the Joint Committee had not yet received any of those funds. The Committee members advised that the Joint Committee expenses for 2004 could be covered by the Committee and

that the amount requested was for the year 2005. The Committee members agreed that ongoing funding would have to be approved on an annual basis.

The Benchers therefore agreed to provide funding for the Joint No-Fault Committee for 2005 in the amount of \$30,880; such funding to come from the amount collected from the membership for 2004. The Law Society will obtain advice from our auditors as to the correct accounting for the remainder of the 2004 fees collected for no-fault.

Information on Website

Due to increased mobility of lawyers in Canada and changing

procedures by financial institutions, governments and other organizations, there have been increasing numbers of calls and correspondence to the Law Society office requesting confirmation whether certain lawyers are practicing members of the Law Society. As a result, the Benchers directed that work begin to have the practicing member list made available on the Law Society website. However, because there has been concern expressed that the availability of the list on the website might have a negative impact on sales of the CBA directory, the information provided will be the member's name, firm, city and year of call.

Annual Fees for 2005

by Brian Hendrickson

Chair of the 2004 Finance Committee

ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Dear Law Society of Saskatchewan Member:

Re: Annual Fees for 2005

Enclosed is the Notice of Annual Fees for the year 2005. The Benchers approved an increase of \$165.00 per member. This increase is necessary to both improve the monetary level of the Special Fund and to reduce the forecast deficit required to administer the various programs and functions of the Law Society. The increase is allocated as follows: \$100.00 is dedicated to the Special Fund and \$65.00 is directed to reduce the budgeted deficit of the Law Society.

The Special Fund is used to pay out valid claims against defaulting lawyers. It is separate from the

Insurance Fund and is a statutory obligation of the Law Society. In 2004, there were a number of defaultations, the results of which have been reported to the membership; the claims have served to erode the Special Fund. In addition, in the past year, the number of trusteeships has increased with resulting costs. The fee increase approved by the Benchers will see the total amount per member paid to the Special Fund set at \$145.00 (previous annual commitment of \$45.00 plus the increase of \$100.00). The fee increase is a prudent step in maintaining the Special Fund in a healthy state plus an effort to accumulate growth for the future.

The Law Society is responsible for governing the legal profession in Saskatchewan. The Law Society funds and maintains several core functions such as continuing legal

education, libraries, the Bar Admission Course, and the regulation and governance of the profession through discipline and professional standards. The 2005 Budget forecasts increases in several of these core responsibilities. For example, the implementation of the new Bar Admission Course which is provided on-line so as to compare to similar courses in the western provinces, has increased the costs of that program. Libraries will also require increased funding.

In addition, the functions and responsibilities of the Law Society continue to grow and evolve. Programs to enhance lawyer competence and assist the membership generally, such as the Practice Advisor program and Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, have seen increased funding. Such programs are seen as benefitting the member-

ship but do require proper and adequate funding. The Benchers have been vigilant in ensuring that both core and other programs are managed in a cost effective manner.

Enclosed is a table outlining a provincial comparison of annual fees and insurance premiums. As can be seen from the table, Saskatchewan lawyers, relative to those in other provinces, continue to be in a favourable position.

The Law Society of Saskatchewan is a member of the Federation of Law Societies, as is every other provincial law society. The Federation has been dedicated to addressing a number of issues relating to the administration of justice and the practice of law. For example, the Federation successfully intervened in cases dealing with the money laundering legislation to the benefit of private practitioners. The Law Society has increased our albeit modest per lawyer cost of membership in the Federation to enable the Federation to continue their efforts. In addition, the Law Society of Saskatchewan has been working diligently with the Law Societies of Alberta and Manitoba to standardize and harmonize trust accounting and other practice rules, thus ensur-

ing access to practice in other jurisdictions through mobility.

The assessment for professional liability insurance, paid to the Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association (SLIA), is separate from the annual fee. This insurance assessment is set annually in June to cover the policy year from July 1 to June 30. The insurance assessment set for the period of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 was set at \$700.00. The assessment has consistently declined over time; for example, in 1998, the assessment was \$2,400.00 per member and last year it was \$800.00 per member.

To assist the members in understanding how the Benchers determined fees, the following commentary is provided:

Administration

This item represents the cost per member of operating the Law Society. The components are general administration, Discipline and Professional Standards proceedings, lawyer referral service, Saskatchewan Law Review subscriptions, and Law Society scholarships. As discussed, the members also pay a fee to the Federation of Law Societies for it to continue to carry out its activities. A major component of

the Federation is CanLII, a virtual library, although CanLII is a separate item on the budget.

Libraries

Saskatchewan members continue to have the advantage of an outstanding library service. Our service has been recognized nationally as being one of the best such services in the country. In addition, the service is provided to members who are widely dispersed geographically. Such excellence requires proper funding; the budget for libraries has increased over the past years and this year, the Law Society share of the libraries' budget will be increase from \$443,815.00 in 2004 to \$504,600.00 in 2005. The move to increase technology while by necessity maintaining core book collections has resulted in increased costs. In addition, revenue sources previously available to libraries such as photocopying at Land Titles has been eliminated. While the Law Foundation has generously awarded the sum of \$700,000.00 for 2005, the Foundation has made it clear that it expects the Law Society to increase its proportion of libraries funding to approach 50%.

A breakdown of the Law Society fees for 2005 with a comparison to 2004 is as follows:

	2004 (based on 1450 practicing members)	2005 (based on 1475 practicing members)
Administration	\$504.00	498.00
Libraries	306.00	348.00
CanLII	20.00	24.00
Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers	20.00	26.00
Special Fund	45.00	145.00
SKLESI Seminars	145.00	145.00
Bar Admission Course	79.00	102.00
Equity Ombudsperson	31.00	27.00
TOTAL	\$1,150.00	\$1,315.00

CanLII

This is a free on-line research service. It is available to both lawyers and the public. It can be accessed at its website, www.canlii.org.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL)

This organization provides counseling services to members and their families. Costs are shared with Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association (SLIA). LCL is free for applicants and completely independent of the Law Society. Confidentiality is maintained. Counseling services are available to all Saskatchewan lawyers and their families who feel threatened by personal or job related stresses. Funding for this organization has increased to \$37,800.00 in 2005.

No Fault Insurance

For 2004, the Law Society had collected \$60,000.00, or \$42.00/member to provide funding to the Law Society/CBA Joint No-Fault Committee. However, in April, the Benchers passed a resolution to cease continued funding for the Committee and return the 2004 funds to the membership. At the Annual Meeting held in June, members passed a resolution exhorting the Law Society to continue to provide funding for the Joint Committee. Members of the Committee appeared before the Benchers

in October with a revised funding submission, following which the Benchers agreed to provide a grant in the amount of \$30,880.00 for 2005 which will be paid from the funds collected for No-Fault in 2004. The remainder of the 2004 No-Fault funding will be held in trust pending further direction.

Special Fund Assessment

As previously noted, this fund is created by statute and is used to pay claimants where lawyers have misappropriated or wrongfully converted trust funds. Revenue from the fund is generated through annual fee assessments and through return on investments, as well as from recoveries from members in respect of whom payments have been made from the fund. The expenses from the fund consist primarily of insurance premiums for catastrophe insurance, fees paid to trustees and third parties who are administering fund claims and the claims themselves. In 2004, the Benchers sought the advice of an actuary to determine appropriate levels of funding; the advice provided was that the levels maintained in the fund had to be increased in order to first return the fund to a neutral position and then to attempt to continue to grow the fund in the future. As a result of the increase, it is hoped the fund can be increased to \$2.1 million in 2005. While it is difficult to predict unanticipated

claims and costs, previous claims history indicates the increase is prudent.

Saskatchewan Legal Education Society Inc. (SKLESI)

The Law Society provides funding to SKLESI to enable it to provide continuing legal education for lawyers. The amount paid per member in 2005 is \$145.00. This is equivalent to the cost of one seminar for each and every member. The contribution by the Law Society to the cost of the Bar Admission Course has increased from \$79.00 per member to \$102.00 in 2005.

Conclusion

The Finance Committee reviews the Law Society revenues and expenses including a comparison with budgeted amounts on a monthly basis. This examination also involves detailed reports of investment income from reserves and suitable policies to preserve capital and provide growth. The Benchers also discuss the annual fee and insurance assessments. While fee increases are not popular, the Benchers felt the increase struck a balance between keeping the increase at a reasonable level while ensuring the continued growth of the Special Fund and the continued operations of the Law Society.

A Message from the Dean of the College of Law by Dean Brent Cotter, Q.C.

It is an exciting time to be the new Dean of the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. The College has, throughout its

existence, delivered an excellent legal education to its students, often in the face of significant financial constraints. The College has contin-

ued to attract high quality applicants to its program, and demand for law at the University of

Saskatchewan is once again approaching record high numbers.

We are now poised to launch a series of dramatic initiatives to fulfill our responsibilities to students, the legal profession, the University and the larger community in an exemplary way. We are confident that these initiatives, “The Four Pillars of Our Future”, will return the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan to its place of pre-eminence in Canadian legal education.

I. A Strategic Direction for the College of Law

Led by the work of Deans Bilson and Ish, the College has developed a strategic direction that sets out the role that the College will play in preparing our graduates for the future. This is the first time in our history that we have developed such a comprehensive plan. The components of this plan are to:

- (i) Build on our strengths as an outstanding teaching law school;
- (ii) Strengthen our research and publication productivity;
- (iii) Continue to attract outstanding students to the College from all parts of Canada; and
- (iv) Invest in areas of pre-eminence at the College of Law, particularly transnational commercial law, environment and sustainable resources and Aboriginal law.

II. Strengthening and Expanding our Faculty

We have a very good faculty complement, with new faculty members joining the faculty in recent years to replace colleagues who have retired. But we are now in a position to sig-

nificantly expand our faculty by hiring new professors, beginning with up to four new faculty members in 2005. We are committed to using increased law student tuition fees to improve the College. Strengthening and expanding the faculty is one of the ways we will do this. Additional faculty members will make it possible for us to maintain a strong teaching team in core areas of the curriculum, expand our specialized offerings to students and build upon nationally recognized strengths.

III. Improving Student Services and Facilities

We are also putting student tuition fees to work to improve student services by immediately hiring a Student Services Officer, who will be responsible for student placement – connecting students with employers, and law firms and other employers with law students and graduates. This will significantly enhance students’ prospects for employment and assist law firms and other employers to make connections with our very strong talent pool of students. We will also strengthen other services for students at the College, and will be making modest improvements to the students place at the College – student lounge, student organizations’ offices, computer facilities – to make the law school more responsive to the needs of our students.

IV. Expanding and Modernizing the Law School Building

We have an Admissions policy of admitting approximately 110 students into our program each year. This policy has been in place for

many years and we have no plans to change the policy in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, our law school, built 37 years ago to house approximately 2/3 of its present inhabitants, is significantly overcrowded. As well, it has been only modestly renovated to keep pace with the changing demands of legal education.

To address these needs, we are launching a major fundraising campaign to expand and modernize the College’s physical premises. This “Building of Our Future” will enable us to improve teaching, create more space for students, provide us with more and more appropriate classroom space, alleviate overcrowding in faculty offices and accommodate our growing faculty complement. This will enable us to fulfill our mandate of providing an environment conducive to student learning and growth. We are looking to raise \$7.5 million for this project in an equal partnership among (i) alumni, the legal profession and friends of the College; (ii) the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan; and (iii) the University of Saskatchewan.

Canadian law schools have become more and more competitive in their efforts to achieve and maintain excellence. This pursuit of excellence, which we welcome, includes the attraction of top quality professors, excellent students, the provision of high quality services, and the delivery of an excellent program of legal education in modern, up-to-date facilities. We are confident that by building “The Four Pillars of our Future”, we can achieve our goals and meet this challenge. Here at the College of Law, we “Think the World of Our Future”, and we hope you do too.

In Memory Of

MELANIE McADAM of Regina passed away on November 8th, 2004 at the age of 42 years. Ms. McAdam was admitted to the Law Society of Saskatchewan in 1996 and had been with the Crown Prosecutors Office.

Ms. McAdam is survived by Max; her brother and his three sons and many close friends.

Limitation of Actions Act

This is to remind the membership that the new *Limitation of Actions Act* is expected to be proclaimed on May 1st, 2005. The provisions of the Act could have a significant impact on members' practice.

This is also to remind members that a SKLESI seminar on this issue has been scheduled for March 4th, 2005 at various locations in the province.

Members' Section Passwords

Just a reminder about the members' section: the new passwords for the members' section are being sent with your practice certificate. The new passwords are effective December 1, 2004 and the 2004 accounts will be de-activated on January 19, 2005. If you have any questions about the password, please contact the Library staff in Regina directly at 1-877-989-4999 or 569-8020.

2005 Convocation Dates of the Benchers of The Law Society of Saskatchewan

- February 9th, 10th and 11th - Saskatoon
 - April 6th, 7th and 8th – Regina
 - June 8th, 9th and 10th – Humboldt
(in conjunction with Annual Meeting set for evening of Thursday, June 9th)
 - September 7th, 8th and 9th - Regina
 - October 26th, 27th and 28th– Melville
 - December 7th, 8th and 9th – Saskatoon
-

Volunteers for the Centennial

Thank you to a number of people who have called regarding volunteering for the Centennial project. Lana Krogan, Graeme Mitchell, Janice Wall and Brent Klause have volunteered for the Gala Events in Regina and Saskatoon. Jan Cowie has volunteered for the Centennial Medallion project and the Educational Video project. Bill Selnes has taken on the Calendar project and John McIntosh has agreed to do the stamp project. Linda Wood has volunteered but we have not yet assigned her a project.

We continue to organize and we do need more volunteers. Please call Ron Kruzeniski at 787-5427 or Sue Baer at 569-8020.

Le plus ça change, le plus la même chose ...

by Susan Baer

I have had the pleasure of rooting through old library files to bring the past to life in preparation for the Law Society's Centennial. Preserved in my office when I first arrived were the original ledgers for the book collection when our Law Society assumed those libraries located in Saskatchewan from the Law Society of the Northwest Territories. There were six libraries in operation in 1907 when the Law Society of Saskatchewan was created: Moomsomin, Prince Albert, Regina, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, and Saskatoon. Almost 100 years later, all but one of the original six remain in the system of now 16 libraries.

Computers let alone typewriters were not used for record-keeping and all of the ledgers were handwritten. Just look at the penmanship! Now there are computer fonts to replicate what is now a lost art form. I couldn't resist showing a page from the ledger so you could pause with me to reflect on a low-tech time in our history. It looks like the ledgers were maintained until some time in the 1960's. In the accompanying picture, you can see the binding costs for the

Saskatchewan Law Reports: \$1.82 for vol. 2, \$5.25 for 3 copies of vol. 4 done in 1913. Using the Bank of Canada's inflation calculator (a link is located in the members' section: http://www.bankofcanada/en/inflation_calc.htm), the binding cost of \$1.75 per volume works out to \$30.79 in 2004 dollars. Actual binding costs today are very close to this inflation-calculated price. Individual costs for our library for assorted binding runs between \$15-30, depending on the item. However, imprinted on all of the Law Society's reports in that era was "Law Society

Saskatchewan" and the library's location. Many of the books in the library in Regina are marked "Law Society Northwest Territories" in foil stamping. Having recently worked in the NWT, I had goose bumps on my initial review of the collection. The price of the *Saskatchewan Law Reports* is not included on the Law Society's ledger since every member at that time received copies of the law reports as part of his/her membership. Fast forward 100 years, and the Law Society is once again providing its members with all judgments from

DATE PAID	CHEQUE NUMBER	AMOUNT	VOLUME	NATURE OF CHARGE	TO WHO
1 10 09	264		1		Loan L
27 9 10	459	1 82	2	Binding	"
2 8 11	690	1 50	2	"	"
2 1 12	736	7 25	3	"	"
" " "	"		1, 2, 3,	"	"

Title	Year	Vols.	Annual Historical Price	Annual Price using inflation Calculator	2003 costs		
					Vols.	Annual Price	Price per vol.
Dominion Law Reports	1913	7	\$42.00 (\$6 per vol.)	\$738.85	13	\$2,521.81	\$203
Western Law Reports (forerunner of WWR)	1913	4	\$15.00	\$263.87	11 + index	\$5,593.98	\$247
Ontario Weekly Reporter (forerunner of OR)	1911	3	\$10.00	\$172.92	5	\$1,581.96	\$328

Saskatchewan courts through the Law Society's website. So our philosophy of access to legal information has not changed radically in 100 years, only the method of delivery!

The ledgers were used to record the receipt of the items, the cost of the subscription or item, and binding costs. Since there were no subscription costs for the Saskatchewan Law Reports, I just had to look at other law reports to see what they would have cost today using the price 100 years ago. The following chart selects three titles and compares annual costs for maintaining a subscription around 1913 and compares the costs to 2003 subscriptions.

Compared to 2003 prices, the costs of law reports have exceeded inflation by staggering amounts. The inflation rate over 90 years is 1,659.15%. The cost of a single volume of the DLRs was \$6. Now it is \$203 with shipping and taxes.

The past decade alone has seen spiraling costs associated with main-

taining printed legal publications. The environment in which the libraries operate has been characterized by extreme volatility and rapid change: an explosion in the format, cost and volume of legal information, changing needs and demands of clients, and rapidly changing information technologies. Developments such as CanLII, www.canlii.org, permit access to case law and statutes directly at the desktop, allowing the Law Society library to use needed resources to purchase printed materials that are not available electronically. In the electronic world, the issue of archiving has yet to be addressed. As our common law system is based on legal precedent wherein every decision from every court is a primary source of law, it is critical that an archival collection of legal materials be maintained. The only stable media for preservation of information are print and microformats. For our bi-centennial, we need to plan now to ensure there are collections available for research. The

Law Society Library has an obligation to retain the printed materials to ensure an archival copy of the law exists for generations. While our library system has cancelled a great deal of printed law reports and statutes, we are working cooperatively with the Law Society and Courthouse Library Directors from across the country to carve a national archival strategy.

We should feel fortunate that we can still transport our minds to a different era simply by handling a dusty, crumbly old leather-bound law book, but relish in the fact that we can also use computers to access so much from our offices. If you enjoy nostalgia, volunteer to help with the Centennial. If you want more information about the cost of legal materials, blending print and electronic formats, and archival issues in the age of technology, please contact me directly.

Legal WebCites

by Peta Bates

Primary sources of international law on the Internet have been collected on a new web site called EISIL (the Electronic Information System for International Law). Developed by the American Society of International Law, the EISIL web site links to official web sites and research guides that will assist both beginner and advanced researchers in international law.

Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL) **<http://www.eisil.org>**

From the home page you can browse a list of subject headings or keyword search the entire database. The Advanced Search option allows keyword, phrase, acronym and word exclusion searches. The search results are displayed by resource type and contain a detailed description of the web site contents and other useful information such as the legal citation for the document, entry into force and signature dates, and the amend-

ment history. The scope of the search results is best illustrated by an example:

A search for “child abduction” retrieved as a **primary document** the *Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* located on the Hague Conference on International Law web site. In addition to the English text of the Convention, this site also provides the Convention in other languages, a chart showing the status of the Convention among contracting states, “practical operation documents” that accompany the Convention, and reports and statistics from contracting states.

The search for “child abduction” also retrieved a list of **web sites** including the U.S. Department of State Office of Children’s Issues, a Report on the Hague Convention commissioned by the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and the International Child Abduction Database. This database was

established by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on International Law. A search in this database for Canada as the “requested state” retrieved a list of Canadian case citations; searching for Canada as the “requesting state” retrieved citations to foreign judgments.

Finally, the search for “child abduction” retrieved a **research guide** by Marilyn J. Raisch for the Law Library Resource Xchange entitled “International Family: A Selective Resource Guide”. The guide covers conventions, agreements, treatises and web sites on the international aspects of marriage, support, custody, adoption and child abduction.

Search results can be saved by checking the “save record” box under the “more information” option beside each record. This saved list can be printed, saved as a file or sent to an email address (which will preserve the live links).



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, Judy Anderson, 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, Regina 352-0680 or Saskatoon 956-5738 or 956-5735

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