

BENCHERS' DIGEST



Volume 18, Issue Number 2

March, 2005

The Limitations Act

By Thomas J. Schonhoffer, M.A., LL.B.



The proclamation of *The Limitations Act* on May 1, 2005 will make the practice of law easier. The new *Act* creates a uniform two year limitation period, after the date of discovery, for most actions. In addition, it consolidates limitation periods from many different statutes into the new *Act*. Unfortunately, as with every labour saving device, it requires an initial investment of time. There are exceptions and changes which require some attention. For example, claims

against municipalities (cities, northern, rural and urban) continue to have notice requirements and a limitation period requiring that the claim be issued **and served** within one year from the date the damages were sustained.

There are too many important changes for me to highlight in the space provided and I urge anyone who was unable to attend the SKLESI seminar on March 4, 2005 to either borrow a copy of the written material from the Law Society Library or buy the material from SKLESI. It is a practical guide to understanding and using the new *Act*. For those that think the new *Act* only affects litigators, I particularly recommend Pat Quaroni's article entitled *Considerations for Lenders and Solicitors*. There are important issues which are of concern to your commercial clients.

We also want to announce major changes to the Limitations Manual. Most importantly, we have changed the Manual from a paper format to an on-line for-

mat, which you will find on the Law Society home page on May 1, 2005. The on-line format has the advantage of being more current than our previous editions which were sometimes as much as two years out of date. In addition, it will reduce cost. Technologically challenged members can have a paper copy printed from the site.

The new Manual does not replace the old paper Limitations Manual so don't throw out your old binder. Because of the transition provisions in Section 31, it is possible that you may be looking for old limitation periods up to 10 years from now.

Finally, while the new *Act* simplifies limitations, knowing the limitation period is only half the battle. Many errors are made by poor office practice. Lawyers often correctly identify the limitation period, but because of their failure to properly use a diary system, the claim is not issued in time.

www.lawsociety.sk.ca

Highlights of the Meeting of the Benchers held February 10th and 11th, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO RULE 900 and 909 – No Cash Rule

The Benchers approved an amendment to rule 900 and a new Rule 909 dealing with Money Laundering. The amendments are similar to Rules passed in British Columbia, the North West Territories, Newfoundland and Ontario. The Benchers believe that it was important for Saskatchewan to pass these Rules spearheaded by British Columbia and the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to act in the public interest, in this case, combating money laundering.

The amendment to the definition Rule 900 defines currency to include cash and the limit of cash transactions is set out in 909. New Rule 909 prohibits a lawyer from accepting more than \$7,500 in cash in a single transaction on behalf of a client, except for payment of fees, disbursements or bail. The Rule includes foreign currency and provides for the conversion rate into Canadian funds. The Rule also provides that two transactions within a 24 hour period is deemed to be one transaction for the purpose of the Rule if the lawyer knows, or ought to have known, the transaction related to the same client.

The amendments will be circulated to the members, along with this edition of the Digest.

POLICY FOR RESUMPTION OF PRACTICE

Rule 212(4) provides that where members have been inactive during the 5 years immediately preceding an application for reinstatement as a practicing (active) member, the

Admissions & Education Committee may impose conditions upon the member's reinstatement.

In the past, the Admissions & Education Committee has had limited resources available to impose conditions which would alleviate concerns about the returning member's ability to practice, especially if the member has been away from practice of law for some time. Depending on the length of a member's practice in Saskatchewan; the length of time the member had not been practicing in Saskatchewan; and whether or not the member had been practicing law in Canada in the interim, the Committee would either impose no conditions or require that the member work for one year under the supervision of another member practicing in Saskatchewan.

The Admissions & Education Committee reviewed the conditions imposed upon members resuming active practice and was of the view that the "usual" conditions were not always satisfactory.

The Committee's starting point for the new conditions is the reading requirement, which has become the substitute for the transfer examinations under the National Mobility Agreement. (Note: the reading list can be located on the Law Society website at www.lawsociety.sk.ca under the "National Mobility" icon.) It is the Committee's view that the reading requirement is a valid starting point and will be the "usual" condition for a member seeking to resume active practice in Saskatchewan after an absence from the practice of 5 years or more.

If the member has not been practicing law in that period, ie. in

another province, he or she will likely be required to work for a year under the supervision of a lawyer practicing in Saskatchewan.

Members who are required to complete the reading requirement must do so within 3 months of receiving a practicing certificate. Members required to work with another lawyer for one year must complete the reading requirement during that year.

DESIGNATE COMPLAINTS OFFICER

On occasion, the Law Society will receive complaints involving Benchers or Law Society staff. The Benchers are of the view that it is not appropriate for such complaints to be handled in-house. Therefore, the Law Society seeks the assistance of outside counsel to volunteer for the role of Designate Complaints Officer. At the February Convocation, the Benchers appointed Larry Zatlin, Q.C. and John MacIntosh, Q.C. as Designate Complaints Officers to deal with possible complaints against Law Society staff or Benchers.

AUTHORITY OF HEARING COMMITTEES

Section 53 of *The Legal Profession Act, 1990* provides that a Hearing Committee may, with the consent of counsel for the Society, impose sentence on a member found guilty of conduct unbecoming a lawyer. The Hearing Committee's jurisdiction to impose sentence is limited to reprimands, fines and certain practice conditions. Only the Discipline Committee as a whole may impose sentences such as disbarment, per-

mission to resign (a virtual disbarment), or suspensions.

The Legislation and Policy Committee is reviewing *The Legal Profession Act, 1990* in order to discuss potential amendments with the Department of Justice. It had been suggested that the *Act* be amended to include measures that would provide for the acclamation of the Vice-President as a Bencher in an election year. The Legislation and Policy Committee is therefore taking the opportunity to determine whether other amendments will be considered.

It was suggested that the *Act* could be amended such that Hearing Committees would have increased jurisdiction for sentencings. There is some thought that because the number of matters which come before

the Discipline Committee has increased, it would be more efficient if the Hearing Committee had more authority to impose sentence.

There is a difference of opinion among the Benchers with regard to expanding the jurisdiction of Hearing Committees. Some have suggested jurisdiction could be increased to allow (with the consent of a member, counsel for the Society and the Hearing Committee itself) for suspensions up to 6 months in length or to accept resignations in the face of discipline. On the other hand, some Benchers believe the jurisdiction to impose more serious levels of sentence should remain with the Discipline Committee as a whole in order to maintain consistency. Others believe that if increased authority is granted to the

Hearing Committee, there should be a right of appeal to the entire Discipline Committee.

A review of the procedures in other Law Societies in Canada will be conducted and discussions will continue.

EQUITY OMBUDSPERSON

The Equity Diversity Committee is pleased to announce that the contract for the provision of the Equity Ombudsperson services by Ms. Judy Anderson has been extended for the year 2005. Ms. Anderson has been instrumental in providing direction to the Committee and has dealt with a number of complaints and provided guidance towards resolution for the parties involved.

Continuing Efforts in the Areas of Equity and Diversity in the Legal Workplace

By Judy Anderson

The Equity and Diversity Committee of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and the Office of the Equity Ombudsperson have been working to identify specific items of concern for Saskatchewan lawyers within the areas of equity and diversity. In the fall of 2004, several lawyers were invited to attend one of three focus groups which were held in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert. The sessions attracted a diverse group of men and women from both public and private firms. The question posed was:

"In order to move issues of equity and diversity within the

Saskatchewan legal community forward, what directions/initiatives does the Law Society of Saskatchewan need to undertake?

The conversations were animated and lively. Each of the three focus groups identified areas of concern, which will now serve as a road map for the Office of the Equity Ombudsperson and the Law Society in the creation and fostering of healthy legal workplaces.

The consensus priorities are:

- Equity Appointments and Benchers
- Parental Leave
- Accessibility Survey

- Mentorship

Each of these priorities will need careful exploration and consideration over the next few years. If you would like to help us achieve these goals or have additional input, please feel free to join the effort. Please contact:

*Judy Anderson
The Office of the
Equity Ombudsperson
242-4885 (in Saskatoon)
1-866-444-4885 (toll-free)
janderson1@sasktel.net*

100th Anniversary of the Law Society of Saskatchewan

by Ron Kruzeniski, Q.C.

LEGACY PROJECT SEARCH

As we work on our Centennial celebrations, we have not come up with a project where the profession is making a contribution to the public good. In other words, we have not come up with a project that will make a lasting contribution to our province. We do have other projects, which will recognize the event,

celebrate the history and have lawyers gather, but we would like to find our legacy project.

We are asking for your suggestions for a project that will make a difference. Some have suggested something in relation to literacy. Others have suggested a project linked to a particular charity. Others have suggested a massive blood donation drive. We need your ideas.

Once we get your ideas, we will try to select the three best and arrange to allow members to vote, hopefully on the Internet, for your first choice.

Please call Ron Kruzeniski at 787-5427 or Sue Baer at 569-8020 with your suggestions. Remember, in addition to your suggestions, if you volunteer to help with the suggested project, that would be a bonus.

Law Society Libraries

By Susan Baer, Director of Libraries

MEMBERS' SECTION PASSWORDS

The members' section password issue has now been resolved. The 2005 user IDs and passwords should now work consistently. Therefore, we will be deactivating the 2004 members' section user IDs and passwords effective **March 16, 2005**. Please contact the library staff if you need any assistance with accessing the members' section.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Through the Law Society's website, the library provides you with many resources directly at your desktop. The following databases are included in the members' section:

There are proclamation tables, judgment tables, new articles, new books, Supreme Court of Canada judgments and the daily news on the home page. We try to provide our members with as much information as possible to make it cost-effective to access the information while in your office.

Perhaps forgotten in all of this desktop information is the fact that the library staff can provide you with a confidential manual and computerized legal research service. This includes searching on QL, LawSource other online services, the library's catalogue and book loans. When you don't have time, you can call, fax or email the library

staff. The reference staff can help with the simplest case retrieval to conducting subject research using a variety of resources. The cost of the service depends on the complexity of the question, the amount of time to answer the question and what sources the library staff need to answer the question. Computer searches cost 1.5 times the cost of the search plus an \$11 administration fee. Simple case retrieval usually is invoiced at the 25¢ per page photocopying rate. Straight research is billed in 15-minute increments at a cost of \$36 per hour. The rates are extremely inexpensive!

Digests of SK Judgments	Fulltext SK Judgments	Court of Appeal Sentencing Digest
Saskatchewan Bills	Saskatchewan Regulations	Continuing Legal Education Index
HeinOnline	LegalTrac	Several databases form the Multi-type Database Licensing Project
Rural members receive:	LawSource	Canadian Human Rights Reporter

The library staff will also photocopy and deliver cases, statutes, regulations, articles, or other information. If you live in Regina or Saskatoon, you can call the library staff to pull cases for runners to photocopy if you don't want the library staff to do the copying for you. If not a violation of copyright or our license agreements with publishers, the library staff will email documents to our members also. Depending on our source, you may not even incur a charge.

Need to do some historical research on statutes and afraid to admit you don't know how? Tracing statutes is a dying skill. Without constant exposure and practice

using the statutes, everyone gets rusty. Our reference staff will be able to help.

To keep on top of Saskatchewan case law, sign up to receive *CaseMail* through your email. Located in the members' section, *CaseMail* is a digesting service of Saskatchewan case law, containing links to the fulltext judgment. The digests of judgments are arranged alphabetically by the subject. *CaseMail* is compiled on the first and 15th of every month. You can choose to access it in the members' section, or contact the library to ask to be placed on the mailing list at no charge. This is one of the benefits of an active membership in the Law

Society of Saskatchewan. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader® on your computer to see the fulltext judgments.

Through the Benchers' Digest, I hope to feature a database or a research tip to help you with your legal research throughout the year. In this issue of Peta Bates' Legal Web Cites column, she features *HeinOnline* and *LegalTrac*, both services now at your desktop. Don't be afraid to contact us in Saskatoon at (306) 933-5141; toll-free at 1-888-989-7499 or in Regina at (306) 569-8020; toll-free at 1-877-989-4999.

Law Society Libraries

By Peta Bates, Librarian

Legal WebCites

The Members' section of the Law Society web site now offers two legal periodical databases that contain fulltext articles. HeinOnline provides a fulltext PDF version of over 700 legal periodicals. Most of these journals are complete from the first volume which is one of the strengths of HeinOnline. LegalTrac is an index of articles in law journals some of which are available in fulltext. Both HeinOnline and LegalTrac are U.S. publications but each contains a selection of Canadian journals as well as articles relating to Canadian issues that are published in American law journals.

How much Canadian content is there in these U.S. databases? At

the end of this article is a list of the Canadian and Commonwealth law journals available fulltext in HeinOnline and LegalTrac. In addition, U.S. journals often discuss Canadian case law and legislative trends. We'll look at HeinOnline for two examples.

COMMENT ON CANADIAN CASES IN U.S. LAW JOURNALS

The keyword search screen is accessed from the HeinOnline home page by selecting the "Search" option. To locate articles that discuss the case of *Monsanto Canada Inc. v. Schmeiser*, enter **monsanto schmeiser** in the fulltext word

search box. By default, the system will search for all your search terms in all the journals. You can choose to sort the results by title or date. The search retrieves more than a dozen articles that discuss the case in Australian, Singapore and U.S. law journals.

DISCUSSION OF CANADIAN LEGAL ISSUES IN U.S. LAW JOURNALS

A search for **same sex marriage Canada** limited to the years 2004 and 2005 retrieved references to this issue in close to twenty American journals specializing in gender studies, social justice, and international and comparative law. A search for

decriminalization marijuana Canada found an article in a U.S. comparative law review on Canadian marijuana policy in the context of decriminalization in the Netherlands.

Fulltext Canadian Law Journals on HeinOnline

Alberta Law Quarterly v. 1-5 (1934-1945)
Alberta Law Review v. 1-40 (1955-2003)
Canada-United States Law Journal v. 1-29 (1978-2003)
Canadian-American Law Journal v. 1-4 (1982-1988)
Canadian Green Bag v. 1 (1895)
Canadian Journal of Family Law v. 1-19 (1978-2002)
Canadian J. of Law & Jurisprudence v. 1-16 (1988-2003)
Canadian Journal of Women & the Law v. 1-14 (1985-2002)
Canadian Law Libraries v. 15-27 (1990-2002)
Dalhousie Journal of Legal Studies v. 1-12 (1992-2003)
McGill Law Journal v. 1-48 (1952-2003)
Osgoode Hall Law Journal v. 1-41 (1958-2003)
Ottawa Law Review v. 1-34 (1966-2003)
Queen's Law Journal v. 1-29 (1971-2004)
U.B.C. Law Review v. 1-37 (1959-2004)
U.B.C. Legal Notes v. 1-2 (1949-1958)
U. of T. Faculty of Law Review v. 1-58 (1942-2000)

U. of T. Law Journal v. 1-50 (1935-2000)
U. W. O. Law Review v. 1-24 (1961-1987)

Fulltext Commonwealth Law Journals on HeinOnline

Auckland University Law Review v. 1-9 (1967-2003)
Australian Yrbk. of International Law v. 1-22 (1965-2002)
British Journal of Criminology v. 1-37 (1960-1997)
British Yearbook of International Law v. 1-46 (1920-1973)
Cambridge Law Journal v. 1-59 (1921-2000)
Law Quarterly Review v. 1-41 (1885-1925)
Macquarie Law Journal v. 1-3 (2001-2003)
Melbourne Journal of International Law v. 1-4 (2000-2003)
Melbourne University Law Review v. 1-26 (1957-2002)
Modern Law Review v. 1-62 (1937-1999)
Monash University Law Review v. 1-29 (1974-2003)
Newcastle Law Review v. 1-6 (1995-2002)
New Zealand Armed Forces Law Review (2001-2003)
Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly v. 1-51 (1936-2000)
Psychiatry, Psychology, and Law v. 1-9 (1994-2002)
Queensland University of Technology Law and Justice Journal v. 1-3 (2001-2003)
Singapore J. of Internat'l & Comp. Law v. 1-7 (1997-2003)

Singapore Journal of Legal Studies v. 1-38 (1959-2003)
South African Human Rights Yearbook v. 1-7 (1990-1996)
South African Law Journal v. 1-118 (1884-2001)
Sri Lanka Journal of International Law v. 1-15 (1989-2003)
Suffolk University Law Review v. 1-37 (1967-2004)
Sydney Law Review v. 1-24 (1953-2002)
University of Queensland Law Journal v. 1-22 (1948-2003)
Woolsack (New Series) v. 1 (1923-1938)

Fulltext Canadian and Commonwealth Law Journals on LegalTrac

Advocate (Van. Bar Association) July 1, 2000-
Australian & New Zealand J. of Criminology Apr. 1, 2003-
British Journal of Criminology June 22, 1992-June 22, 1997
Business Law Review (UK) May 1, 2003-
Canadian Journal of Criminology Jan. 1, 1993-Oct. 1, 2002
Canadian J. of Criminology & Criminal Justice Jan. 1, 2003-
McGill Law Journal Nov. 1, 2000-
Melbourne Journal of International Law June 1, 2001-
Melbourne University Law Review Aug. 1, 2001-
Psychiatry, Psychology and Law (Aus.) Apr.1, 2002-

CPLED PROGRAM EVALUATION: SKLESI'S Report Card for Year One!

By Jennifer D. Fudge, Executive Director

With year one of the new CPLED Bar Admission Program almost behind us, SKLESI is now in a position to let the profession know how things progressed this first year. Launching a new program is always intimidating. I think it is important to start this report by thanking Lynn Loewen, CPLED Program Director, Darlene Walker, CPLED Program Assistant, and Corina Farbacher, CPLED Program Lawyer, for their outstanding work and perseverance during a first year that, while full of unexpected curves and complications, provided an excellent learning experience for all involved.

Now that the first year is behind us, however, it is also time to turn our attention to how we might improve the CPLED Program for the future and avoid many of the complications we encountered this year. To that end, the SKLESI Board struck a special CPLED Evaluation Committee, made up of staff, board members and Law Society representatives, to evaluate our experience with this new program locally.

Joel Hesje, Q.C., Marie Ann Bowden, Kirsten Logan, Q.C., George Thurlow, Q.C., Graeme Mitchell, Q.C., Lynn Loewen and myself make up the CPLED Evaluation Committee. Our plan is to evaluate the CPLED Program by conducting focus groups with each of the three main groups associated with or affected by the new program. These groups are the students, the principals and the facilitators.

It would be impossible to sum up all the feedback we have received through our evaluation efforts to date and keep this article at a respectable length! Here are some of the highlights.

On February 7th and 9th, SKLESI hosted an Evaluation Lunch in both Regina and Saskatoon. Principals from throughout the province were invited to share how the new program has affected the articling experience for students from their perspective. Both sessions were very well attended and participants had many experiences and ideas to share. We still have a few principals who have not as yet provided us with feedback. There have been some negative comments, however, the overall response has been at most, favorable, and at the very least, cautiously optimistic.

One of the main messages we heard is that we need to find a way to involve the principal in the learning activities of the student as they progress through the CPLED Program. We also heard concern for the amount of time students are spending working on CPLED and that we need to provide more guidance for students as they balance their workload in the office and on the CPLED site. These are issues that we plan to address in time for the next CPLED offering.

February 23rd was the last day of the CPLED Program for 2004/05. To conclude the program, we conducted focus group evaluations with the students. This evaluation was in

addition to the anonymous evaluations students have been submitting at the end of each of the 8 modules that comprise the CPLED Program.

At the start of the program, students were hesitant about this new online environment. However, by the end of the program, most students indicated they were comfortable with online learning. The heart of most of the issues the students presented is the need to clarify and expand instructions on the site and to reorganize information and activities so that they are user friendly.

The Evaluation Committee will solicit feedback from the facilitators in the coming months. At the completion of the evaluation, we will present our findings to the CPLED Board for consideration as we move forward in the development of the 2005/06 CPLED year. The CPLED Bar Admission Program is a partnership between Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Most proposed changes to the program may only result through sharing and consensus building between all partners.

It has been an intense year. Change may be good, but it is intimidating as well. The patience, understanding and encouragement SKLESI has been shown throughout this first year is deeply appreciated. Now that we have a better understanding of what the future holds, we look forward to many successful years of continuing to provide the best possible learning and licensing experience for our students.

SKLESI 2004/05 – A Year of Change and Change is Good!

By Jennifer D. Fudge, Executive Director

The Saskatchewan Legal Education Society Inc. (SKLESI) experienced a great deal of change in 2004. Abena Buahene departed after 8 years as the Executive Director, leaving large shoes for me to fill. Lynn Loewen took over as the Bar Admission Program Director after the departure of Bruce Wiwchar. We welcomed Corina Farbacher as Program Lawyer to the CPLED Bar Admission Program. Finally, we welcomed Alicia Prokop as SKLESI's new Bookkeeper/Clerk. Of course, our administrative team of Ann Harley, Darlene Walker and Trina Shewchuk remain the solid foundation on which SKLESI is built.

However, when the words change and 2004 are mentioned in the SKLESI office, it is not so much the new faces as it is the CPLED Bar Admission Program that takes centre stage. 2004 marked the beginning of a new era for the Bar Admission Program as Saskatchewan joined Alberta and Manitoba in the first offering of a licensing program that focuses primarily on skill development using a combination of the traditional classroom teaching and online learning.

The first complete offering ended in February and it has been an interesting journey. We received mixed reviews across the board and SKLESI is the first to confirm that we have learned a great deal throughout the process. We are, however, comforted by the overwhelming, if at times cautious, support we have received from the profession generally. We are also confident that we are headed in the right direction and that the program will grow and

evolve significantly over the next few years. New programs are always challenging and changing, for the better means, initially, simply having the courage to change at all!

Please see the article on the *CPLED Program Evaluation* in this issue of the *Benchers' Digest* for more information.

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT 2004, IT IS TIME TO GET ON WITH 2005!

While the CPLED Program continues to bring challenges and change to the SKLESI office in 2005, there are other initiatives currently under development that mark additional new beginnings at SKLESI.

SKLESI'S NEW DESIGN

You may have noticed that we have changed the look of our brochures. We are also working on a redesign of the SKLESI website. We should have the new site ready for its debut in the summer of 2005. We are very interested in your response to these changes. Please feel free to give me a call and tell me what you think.

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

I realize that in the past SKLESI has offered technology courses. This year we decided to offer one on PowerPoint to gauge the interest of the profession for SKLESI to continue to offer these very practical application programs. While we were only a small group on February 18th in Saskatoon, we were very

enthusiastic. As a result, SKLESI has decided to offer the workshop again in the Fall in Regina.

INTRODUCING A NEW WORKSHOP:

Essential Skills for New Lawyers and A Refresher for the Rest of Us!

This two-day workshop will take place on June 2nd and 3rd in Saskatoon. This workshop will primarily target new or junior lawyers with less than 7 years experience, however, all are welcome! In this workshop participants will learn:

- How to conduct legal research efficiently to obtain the results you need!
- How to market you and your practice both ethically and professionally!
- How to hire effective support staff!
- How to create effective file management and trust accounting systems!
- How to communicate both clearly and professionally!
- How to run an effective meeting!
- How to work well in a team environment!
- How to manage your schedule and time effectively!
- And much, much more...

This workshop has been put together in partnership with the Law Libraries. On Day One of the two days, participants will be broken into two groups and each group will spend a half-day at the Court House library learning the ins and outs of legal research.

The balance of Day One will be spent on law office management issues where participants will have the opportunity to learn tips from more senior practitioners of the Saskatchewan Bar.

On Day Two, SKLESI will be bringing in an expert from out of province to cover issues surrounding communications skills for professionals. What will set this session apart from other business courses is that all examples and activities will be presented from a law office environment perspective. Don't miss out on an opportunity to learn some business strategies that will enhance your practice!

But Wait...There's More!

At the end of Day One, join your colleagues for an evening meal and opportunity to network. This event will host a variety of surprises...so stay tuned!

Be sure to mark your calendars for June 2nd and 3rd, 2005. Registration details should be available by the end of March. ***This is one professional development opportunity you don't want to miss!***

Looking to the Future!

In addition to the regular quality CLE programming you have come to expect from SKLESI, in 2006 we will be piloting two new programs:

- CLE Select Seminar Series for Senior Practitioners
- Advanced Trial Advocacy Workshop

More information about these CLE opportunities will be available in Fall 2005.

It has been a very busy time for SKLESI, but also very exciting. As we move forward with new ideas and initiatives to serve the Saskatchewan Bar, we remain aware that we are unable to put together these programs without your support and encouragement. As always, a heartfelt thank-you for all of your volunteer time and commitment.

The following is a memo from Chief Justice Gerein to the Local Registrars regarding Correspondence to Judges:

It is happening with increasing frequency that correspondence from counsel is getting onto court files. This includes letters addressed to a judge or copies of letters addressed to opposing counsel or even witnesses.

When a judge has a matter on reserve, no correspondence should be delivered to that judge from counsel or a litigant. The correspondence should simply be returned to the sender.

There are two exceptions:

1. Where the correspondence does no more than provide a case citation and a copy has been sent to the other side.
2. Where the trial judge has requested further information or submissions and the request is endorsed on the file.

Annual General Meeting

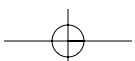
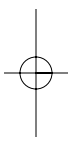
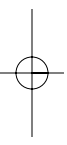
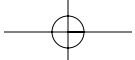
This year, the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Bella Vista Inn in Humboldt, Saskatchewan on Thursday, June 9, 2005. Details for the event will be included with this issue.

In Memory Of

The Honourable Ronald Maclean of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan passed away in March 2005 at the age of 74 years.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Laura, and five children.

Justice Maclean was born in Regina and spent his formative years in Gravelbourg. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a BA degree in 1953 and received his law degree in 1955. Justice Maclean was admitted to the Bar in 1956. He was appointed Queen's Council in 1968. In 1974, he was appointed to the District Court of Saskatchewan. In 1981, he became a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench when the two courts amalgamated. Justice Maclean retired from the Bench in 1998.



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

BENCHERS' DIGEST



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