



**Law Society
of Saskatchewan**

Continuing Professional
Development



**THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION**

Saskatchewan Branch

**Mental Health in the Legal Profession:
Improving Lawyer Well-being
(CPD 367)**

October 4, 2023
Virtual Seminar

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Zoom Webinar Access

Mental Health and the Legal Profession: Improving Lawyer Well-being
Oct 4, 2023 | 09:00 AM – 12:30 PM Saskatchewan

Your Zoom link will be in both your LSS Shop Ticket email and in the Zoom registration confirmation email that followed your Shop email.

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- Ask a question in the meeting chat.

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION: IMPROVING LAWYER WELL-BEING

October 4, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM SK

Virtual Zoom Seminar

- 9:00** **Welcome, Land Acknowledgment and Introduction**
Tim Brown, K.C., Executive Director, Law Society of Saskatchewan. Regina.
- 9:10** **Federation and Law Societies Perspective**
Erin Kleisinger, K.C. McDougall Gauley LLP, Regina.
- 9:30** **National Study on Wellness in the Legal Profession: Results and Recommendations from Phase I**
Dr. Nathalie Cadieux. Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Q.C.
- 10:20** Break
- 10:30** **Panel Discussion: Improving Lawyer Well-being**
- Moderator**
Michelle Ouellette, K.C. McKercher LLP, Saskatoon.
- Panel**
Ref. Judge Robert Philp, K.C. Edmonton, AB.
Ronni Nordal, K.C. Nordal Law Office. Saskatoon.
Patricia Barkaskas. University of Victoria. Victoria, B.C.
Hayley Pitcher. Court of Appeal. Ontario.
- 12:25** **Final remarks and closing**
Steven Dribnenki. City of Regina. President, CBA Saskatchewan. Regina.
- 12:30** **Adjournment**

Virtual Seminar

This seminar is hosted on Zoom. Registrants were provided the link to the seminar in their ticket emails and Zoom email. If you have not received a registration email from Zoom <no-reply@zoom.us>, contact cpd@lawsociety.sk.ca

Survey

The seminar survey will be linked in the Chat, and can be completed here:
<https://forms.office.com/r/HBp045VWc5>

Materials

Attendees will receive links to the presentation materials and free mental health programming from the Law Society, CBA Saskatchewan and Homewood Health following the seminar.

ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

Session 1 – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome, Land Acknowledgment and Introduction



Tim Brown, K.C. graduated from the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan, in 1991. He has been a lawyer in Saskatchewan for over 25 years. In 2011, he became Counsel with the Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association (SLIA) and remained in that role until January of 2017, when he became Executive Director for the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

Federation and Law Societies Perspective

Erin Kleisinger, K.C. attended Queen's University, receiving a B.A. (Hons) in Philosophy in 1989, and an LL.B. in 1992. She was called to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1993 and was appointed Queen's (now King's) Counsel in Saskatchewan in 2015. Erin practices with McDougall Gauley LLP in Regina. She has a varied commercial and civil litigation practice, with a focus on privacy law and university law. She has been recognized by her peers in "Best Lawyers in Canada" for Banking and Finance Law, Insolvency and Financial Restructuring Law and Education Law. Erin is a former Bencher of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, serving as the Society's President in 2017. She is currently the First Vice-President (President Elect) of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, and is the Chair of the Federation's National Wellness Study Steering Committee and the Canadian Common Law Degree Approval Committee, as well as sitting on the Standing Committee for the Model Code of Professional Conduct, the National Requirement Review Committee and the Executive Committee of the Federation. Erin is a member of the Canadian Association of University Solicitors, and was that Association's President in 2018. She has presented at numerous continuing legal education and professional development seminars.



National Study on Wellness in the Legal Profession: Results and Recommendations from Phase I of the Study



Nathalie Cadieux, Ph.D. is a professor in the Department of Management and Human Resources Management at the University of Sherbrooke's business school. Speaker and author of several international scientific publications on the mental health of professionals, she is currently leading a national research project as principal investigator on the mental health of Canadian lawyers. Over 7,300 lawyers have already participated in this two-phase project entitled Towards a Healthy and Sustainable

Practice of Law in Canada. This research was conducted in partnership with the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and the Canadian Bar Association. She was also the principal investigator of a project in partnership with the Barreau du Quebec from 2014 to 2019 in which more than 2500 lawyers practicing in Quebec participated.

Session 2 – 10:30 a.m.

Panel: Practitioner Experiences

Moderator:

Michelle Ouellette, K.C.

- **Ret. Judge Robert Philp, K.C.** (Alberta)
- **Ronni Nordal, K.C.** Nordal Law Office (Saskatoon)
- **Patricia Barkaskas**, University of Victoria (British Columbia)
- **Hayley Pitcher**, Office of the Attorney General (Ontario)



Michelle Ouellette, K.C. is of counsel with McKercher LLP in Saskatoon. She practices in the area of civil litigation with a special interest in health law and professional disciplinary matters. Michelle has litigated cases for her clients at all levels of the Canadian courts. She has also appeared as counsel in various administrative proceedings and was involved in the negotiated resolution of a number of multi-million dollar claims on behalf of Saskatchewan First Nations.

Michelle has been active at both the provincial and national levels of the Canadian Bar Association for many years. She also volunteers with a number of community organizations. In 2013, Michelle was the recipient of the Canadian Bar Association – Saskatchewan Branch, Community Service Award, which recognizes outstanding dedication, service and commitment to the community. In 2021, she was honoured to receive the Canadian Bar Association – Saskatchewan Branch, Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes exceptional legal contributions or achievements. She is a past Chair of the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission and currently chairs the Saskatchewan Public Complaints Commission and the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research.

Michelle has taught at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law and has taught in both the School of Physical Therapy and the College of Veterinarian Medicine with regard to legal and professional issues. She has been a frequent presenter of various health law and other topics at conferences and seminars for Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations, Canadian Bar Association, SKLESI and others.

Michelle was recently selected by her peers for inclusion in ***The Best Lawyers™ in Canada*** 2024 in the fields of Aboriginal Law/Indigenous Practice and Personal Injury Litigation for Saskatoon. She has been listed in Best Lawyers® since 2012.



Ret. Judge Robert Philp, K.C. has served as a director of the Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society for over 25 years. He earned his BA and his law degree from the University of Alberta. Since the beginning of his law career in 1976, he has served nine years as an Alberta Provincial Court Judge, seven years as a Deputy Judge of the Northwest Territories, Territorial Court, and as Chief Commissioner of the Alberta Human Rights Commission, and Bencher of the Law Society of Alberta.

Robert was named King's Counsel, received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003 and the Alberta Centennial Medal in 2005. In 2017, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Bar Association and the Alberta Law Society, and a Community Service Award from the Native Counselling Services of Alberta. Mr. Philp continues to be a mentor to many young lawyers and students and has several notable appointments to the Law Society Committees in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

He holds board and executive positions with many community organizations including Boyle Street Community Services, Reach Edmonton, the Edmonton Community Legal Center, and the Mayor's Task Force to End Poverty. He has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alberta, lectures frequently at university faculties, and is a frequent public speaker on community, poverty and human rights issues.

Ronni Nordal, K.C. has had the privilege of focusing her legal career on labour law and professional discipline. After completing her LL.M. in Employment and Labour Law as well as Arbitration, Med/Arb and Workplace Investigation and Parenting Co-ordinator training, she has transitioned her law practice to acting as a neutral Arbitrator, Mediator, Investigator or Parenting Co-ordinator.



Ronni continues to practice in the area of professional discipline and sits as a Saskatchewan Police Commission Hearing Officer, a member of the City of Regina Board of Revision and as a Practice Advisor and Designated Professional Responsibility Counsel for the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

A former Law Society of Saskatchewan Bencher and former Chair of the Saskatchewan Admin/Labour and Employment CBA section and CBA National Labour & Employment section, Ronni is now focusing her volunteer time as a member of a number of non-profit boards with a focus on addictions, mental health and recovery.



Patricia Baskaskas is a Métis lawyer and educator. She is presently serving as Strategic Advisor to the Dean for the National Centre for Indigenous Laws and Associate Professor (limited term) in the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria. She previously held the positions of Academic Director of Indigenous Legal Studies (2021-2022) and Academic Director of the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic (2014-2022) at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia (on leave).

Her current and future research and teaching interests include Indigenous laws, access to justice, clinical legal education, and decolonizing and Indigenizing law, particularly examining the value of Indigenous pedagogies in experiential and clinical learning for legal education.

Patricia has practiced in the areas of child protection (as parent's counsel), criminal, family, as well as civil litigation and prison law. She has worked closely with Indigenous peoples in their encounters with the justice system and has worked for Residential school survivors as a historical legal researcher for the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. In addition, Patricia has written Gladue reports for all levels of court in BC.

Patricia holds an M.A. in History, with a focus on Indigenous histories in North America, and a J.D., with a Law and Social Justice Specialization, both from the University of British Columbia.

Hayley Pitcher is policy and operational counsel at the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Prior to that role, Hayley was counsel at the Constitutional Law Branch for the Ministry of the Attorney General. In 2021, Hayley received the Association of Law Officers of the Crown's Michael Fleishman award for dedication to public law, mentoring and the promotion of camaraderie in the workplace, and commitment to fairness and social justice. Hayley is a proud member of the Ministry of the Attorney General's Voices for Mental Health, which is a group of employees committed to reducing the stigma and isolation surrounding mental illness.



Closing Comments CBA Saskatchewan

Steven Dribnenki is the 2023-2024 CBA Saskatchewan President. He is currently Legal Counsel with the City of Regina litigation team. He was previously Legal Counsel at Brandt Group of Companies and a Legal and Policy Advisor with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA). He was called to the Bar in 2008 and enjoys all things dad related. During his tenure as President he will focus on “Great Jobs and Good Works” promoting opportunities in law and highlighting the good work that lawyers do in their communities.



Many thanks to CBA Saskatchewan and the organizing committee for their assistance in preparing this seminar.

Andrea Argue, K.C.
Tim Brown, K.C.
Jana Linner, K.C.
Monteen Dent
Andrea Johnston
Christine Johnston
Annie Quangtakoune