

**Minutes for the Meeting of Benchers  
Held Friday, October 3, 2025, In Person and via Zoom  
Delta Bessborough, Saskatoon**

**Present:**

Adam Touet, K.C., President, R. James Fyfe, K.C., Vice-President, Suzanne Lalonde, K.C., Past President, Idowu Adetogun, Keith Amyotte, Jonathan Bodvarson, Daniel Booy (virtual), Doug Finnie, Deborah Giles (virtual), Kathryn Gilliss (virtual), Laura Klemmer, Jeff Lee, K.C., Michael Marschal, Lana Morelli, Tomi Olutunfese, Tiffany Paulsen, K.C., Martin Phillipson, Don Robinson, Carly Romanow, Matthew Schmeling, Christopher Triggs and Julie Ann Wriston.

**In attendance:**

Tim Brown, K.C., Tim Huber, K.C., Kara-Dawn Jordan, K.C., Andrea Johnston, Jan King, Jody Martin (virtual), Pamela Kovacs, Jennifer Houser, Kiran Mand (virtual), Michelle Owolagba (virtual), Pam Harmon, CPA, CA, Stephanie Kievits, CPA, CA (virtual), Sharla Osatuyi, Paul Westgate, Chinye Nwanze, Ken Fox and Jenna Faris (as recording secretary).

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**1.1 Apologies for Absence**

None.

**1.2 Confirmation of Agenda**

Moved by Lana Morelli, seconded by Jonathan Bodvarson, to approve the Agenda as written. The motion carried.

**1.3 Bencher Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

No conflicts were declared.

**1.4 Committee Reports and Documents Which Are Not Available to the Public**

Documents and Reports related to the following items were not available to the public.

- i. Bencher afternoon session on Governance to be held *in-camera* on Thursday, October 2, 2025;
- ii. 2026 Budget; and
- iii. Minutes from the *Closed* Bencher meeting held June 20, 2025.

**2. Decision Items**

## 2.1 2026 Budget

The 2026 Budget, practicing fee and special fund levy for 2026, as well as an annual review of the Reserve and Surplus Management – General Fund Policy, were considered *in-camera*.

A motion to approve the 2026 budget, as presented, with a \$55 fee increase, was moved by Jeff Lee, K.C. seconded by Chris Triggs. The motion carried.

A motion to approve amendments to Schedule 1, Law Society Fees and Assessments, Practice fee for 2026 in the amount of \$2,755, an increase of \$55 over 2025, with no change to the Special Fund assessment in the amount of \$250 (included in the Practice Fee), was moved by Christopher Triggs, seconded by Tomi Olutunfese. The motion carried.

A motion to grant second reading on the same day was presented by Lana Morelli, seconded by Laura Klemmer. The motion carried.

On second reading, a motion was presented by Tiffany Paulsen, K.C., seconded by Julie Ann Wriston, to approve amendments to Schedule 1, Law Society Fees and Assessments, Practice fee for 2026 in the amount of \$2,755, an increase of \$55 over 2025, with no change to the Special Fund assessment in the amount of \$250 (included in the Practice Fee). The motion carried.

No changes to the Reserve and Surplus Management Policy were recommended.

## 2.2 Regulation

### i. Rule Amendments

Part 15 – Rule 1545(10)(b)(ii) – Requirement to Verify Client Identity and Rule 1549(a)(i)(B) – Monitoring

Subsequent to amendment to Rule 1545 in June 2025, and to ensure consistency throughout the Rules, a housekeeping amendment is required to each of the Rules. In both instances, the terminology should be updated to indicate “source of **money**” rather than “source of the funds.” The redlined Rules are listed below.

#### ***Rule 1545 – Requirement to Verify Client Identity***

*(10) If a member is not able to obtain the information referred to in subrule (7) or to confirm the accuracy of that information in accordance with subrule (8), the member must:*

*(a) take reasonable measures to ascertain the identity of the most senior managing officer of the organization;*

*(b) determine whether the following are consistent with the purpose of the retainer and the information obtained about the client as required by this Rule:*

*(i) the client’s information in respect of its activities;*

*(ii) the client’s information in respect of the source of **money the funds** described in Rule 1543; and*

**Rule 1549 – Monitoring**

**1549** During a retainer with a client in which the member is engaged in or gives instructions in respect of any of the activities described in Rule 1543, the member must:

(a) monitor on a periodic basis the professional business relationship with the client for the purposes of:

(i) determining whether the following are consistent with the purpose of the retainer and the information obtained about the client as required by this Rule:

(A) the client's information in respect of the client's activities;

(B) the client's information in respect of the source of ~~money the funds~~ described in Rule 1543; and

Moved by Idowu Adetogun, seconded by Lana Morelli, that housekeeping amendments to Part 15 – Accounting, Rule 1545(10)(b)(ii), Requirement to Verify Client Identity and Rule 1549(a)(i)(B), Monitoring, be approved to read source of “money” rather than source of “the funds.” The motion carried.

A motion to grant second reading on the same day was presented by Julie Ann Wriston, seconded by Christopher Triggs. The motion carried.

On second reading, it was moved by Idowu Adetogun, seconded by Tomi Olutunfese, that housekeeping amendments to Part 15 – Accounting, Rule 1545(10)(b)(ii), Requirement to Verify Client Identity and Rule 1549(a)(i)(B), Monitoring, be approved to read source of “money” rather than source of the “funds.” The motion carried.

**3. Discussion Items**

**3.1 Society Governance**

i. Standing Reports

a. President's Report

Adam Touet, K.C. reported on the following:

- Greetings at College of Law First Year Welcoming Ceremony in September
- In mid-October, the Executive is attending the Federation of Law Societies of Canada Annual Conference in Winnipeg

b. Executive Director's Report

A written report, and addendum, was provided by Tim Brown, K.C.

c. Federation Council's Report

A written report was provided by Andrea Argue, K.C.

ii. Financial Reporting

a. Financial Statements

The financial statements for the month ended August 31, 2025, were provided for review.

b. Investment Reports

The August 31, 2025, TDAM Investments Summary was provided for review.

The Quarterly Investment Report for the period April 1 to June 30, 2025, was also enclosed for review.

iii. Workplan 2025

An updated workplan was provided for Bencher review.

### **3.2 Continuing Professional Development Renewal Project**

In 2023, the Law Society began exploring potential options for improvement and renewal of its continuing professional development (CPD) regulatory framework. Benchers and staff engaged in facilitated, small group discussions regarding various elements of CPD regulatory systems and considered the Law Society of Alberta Professional Development Profile at Convocation on June 23, 2023, and received a demonstration of the Law Society of Alberta CPD Tool, which guides users through a self-assessment and CPD planning and reporting process, at Convocation on September 22, 2023. At Convocation on December 1, 2023, the Benchers indicated general agreement to use the Law Society of Alberta's Competency Profile and CPD Tool as a starting point for developing a renewed CPD regulatory framework.

The Law Society has now entered into an agreement with the Law Society of Alberta permitting development of a CPD Competency Profile and Tool in line with Alberta's model. Administration has developed a high-level project plan and timeline for development, piloting, and launch to Law Society membership of the CPD Tool, Competency Profile and associated policy changes.

Administration indicated that further updates will be provided to the Board in December, including consideration of policies and some proposed changes from the Alberta profile specific to Saskatchewan. The current timeline would develop the Saskatchewan profile in 2026 and beta test to a limited group of members mid-next year to receive feedback and make changes in advance of a full launch in January 2027.

## **4. Informational Items**

### **4.1 Strategic Initiatives Update**

i. Strengthen Regulation (Goal 1)

Legal Guided Pathways Project

Further to the presentation of the Legal Guided Pathways (LGP) at June Convocation, the content and branding are undergoing standard review by the Communications Team and finalization of technology-related fixes are complete. The expected launch date is October 6, 2025.

The LGP will be introduced to the membership via ReSource in conjunction with the public launch.

It was noted that the LGP has been renamed to the Public Concerns Pathway to more accurately describe the Pathway.

ii. Enhance Competency (Goal 2)

a. Firm Regulation

The initial three-year roll-out of the online Practice Management Assessment Tool is concluded and currently in Q4 of the second cycle. Administration continues to review trends identified in the Assessment Tool with a view to development of resources and continuing professional development programming. This includes programming focused on bridging the understanding between firms and the public with respect to the public experience and perceptions regarding access to justice, as well as a Retirement Guide resource for practitioners.

The Practice Management Course (PMC) data is somewhat limited at this time, given the recent integration of the course into the New Sole Small Firm Practice Program. From January 1, 2025, to September 2, 2025, 34 firms have been notified of the requirement to complete the course with a completion rate as follows:

- 20 firms have completed the course;
- 10 firms are in progress;
- 2 firms have not yet started the course; and
- 2 firms were advised of the requirement but ceased operations before completing the course.

As the data set increases, Administration will review the modules that appear to be the most challenging for members based on the number of attempts for successful completion. This data will assist in identifying specific gaps and areas to be aware of in terms of resource development and risk.

Though feedback is not actively sought on the PMC, positive unsolicited feedback has been received: *"Even though I've been practicing for nearly 20 years, I still found it insightful! I'd almost go as far as to recommend a 5-year mandatory refresher requirement for all lawyers."*

b. Western Canada Competency Profile

The Western Canada Competency Profile (WCCP) was approved by all four western provinces in spring 2024, but was not implemented.

In fall 2024, the western provinces, and joined by the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, began work on the WCCP Implementation Project – with an aim to determine where and how the WCCP competencies should be acquired and the appropriate method of assessment for these competencies. The work of the Implementation Project included two phases. Phase 1 looked at the current state to identify Bar training gaps. Phase 2 focused on envisioning the future state. Work on phase 2 recently concluded with the project steering committee considering a set of recommendations for implementation of the WCCP.

The Competency Committee will be reviewing the steering committee's recommendations at its next meeting in November – with Administration seeking direction and support to explore any or all recommendations further. The Board will be updated again at December Convocation.

iii. Increase Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Goal 3)

The mentorship program was open from May 1 to August 31, 2025. Throughout the program, 36 mentors and 39 mentees were approved to participate, and 44 sessions were booked. Overall participation in number of mentors and mentees decreased when compared to the 2024 mentorship program, where 44 mentors and 42 mentees participated. There was an increase in the number of sessions booked in 2025 as compared to 2024, where 31 sessions were booked.

Further to the Internationally Trained Lawyers Conference in April, Administration is advancing consultation related to additional content related to compensation for the *Guide to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for Legal Workplaces*. A call for volunteers resulted in a Working Group of seven drawn from firms, government and Legal Aid. The Working Group will support the work of an expert to develop additional guidance on compensation for this practice resource during Q4 2025.

iv. Advance Truth and Reconciliation (Goal 4)

A meeting of the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group was held on September 4, 2025.

a. Mandatory Education

Administration is advancing renewal of the Law Society's continuing professional development systems as described under agenda item 3.2 above. Considerations for mandatory Truth and Reconciliation education, based on discussion with and feedback from the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group, will be advanced through the Competency Committee and the Benchers as the project progresses.

b. Statement of Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation

The Statement of Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation is being finalized for release prior to the end of 2025 following a clarifying amendment

approved by the Advisory Group and Board of the Law Society. A publication version has been created with a Métis designer, and updated translations are underway in Cree, Dene, (Northern and Southern) Michif and Sauteaux.

v. Increase Access to Legal Services and Justice (Goal 5)

a. Limited Licensing Pilot

Pending proclamation of outstanding sections of Bill No. 163 and regulations, which occurred on October 1, the Limited Licensing Pilot has remained active with new applications paused. The pilot will wind down by the end of the year with applications for limited licenses to be accepted January 1, 2026. A summary of current Pilot data is as follows:

**(Current to September 1, 2025<sup>1</sup>)**

Applicants	Participants – Approved and Active / Pending Conditions	Participants – Not Approved	Participants – Approved and Withdrawn	Applications Pending Review
44	23 / 5 (28)	6	10	0
Client Inquiries	Clients Served	Client Geographic Locations	Consumer Reviews – Positive / Neutral	Consumer Review – Concerns
26,867	8,247	300+	170 / 4	8
Insurance Providers Identified (Participants)	Education Institutions (Applicants)	CPD (Unique Sessions / Participants)	Co-Regulators / Associations (Applicants)	Working Group on Code of Conduct (Participants)
17	50	55 / 72	31	12

b. Alternative Business Structures

Further to approval in principle by the Future of Legal Services Committee at its last meeting, to support regulatory coherence with limited licensing and complete the Committee’s workplan, Administration is advancing draft rule amendments to remove barriers to:

- services an authorized entity may provide (multi-disciplinary practice);
- revenue-sharing within an authorized entity (fee-sharing); and
- ownership of an authorized entity.

These regulatory changes will allow for new optional forms of practice to enhance public access to legal services while upholding professional ethics and standards of conduct. The proposed amendments are anticipated to be ready for consideration by the Board in Q4 2025 after review by the Firm Regulation and Future of Legal Services Committees.

<sup>1</sup> On June 21, 2024, the Board of the Law Society approved rules for limited licensing and a *Code of Professional Conduct for Limited Licensees* conditional on proclamation of outstanding sections of Bill No. 163 and regulations. As the formalization of limited licensing in Saskatchewan is anticipated, new applications to the Pilot are paused effective July 1, 2024.

vi. Increase Wellness (Goal 6)

Staff continue to engage with a consultant to develop new processes for members experiencing health crisis. An initial draft framework and Rules are being prepared by the consultant for review with staff for September 30. It is expected that the framework and draft Rules will be advanced for Committee consideration in Q4 2025.

Administration noted that a legislative amendment is required to apply the proposed processes. The amendments will be proposed for the next legislative cycle. The consultant has developed two pathways: i) a voluntary alternative to traditional discipline where a complaint has been driven by a health issue; and ii) an involuntary process where there is no formal complaint, but there is a serious issue that has been identified, and the Law Society becomes aware of it.

## 5. 2026 Convocations

The 2026 Convocation dates will be published on the Law Society website:

- **March 19 and 20, 2026**
  - Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina
- **April 30, 2026**
  - Virtual meeting for approval of the audited 2025 financial statements and consideration of the SLIA Insurance Levy.
- **June 17, 18 and 19, 2026**
  - Cypress Hills
  - Strategic Planning Session with Glenn Tecker (Tecker International)
- **September 24 and 25, 2026**
  - Delta Hotel, Saskatoon. Budget to be reviewed on Thursday afternoon followed by Convocation on Friday morning.
- **December 3 and 4, 2026**
  - Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina

## 6. New Business – Vice-President Election for 2026

In December, the Law Society will be holding an election to select a Vice-President for 2026. Any Bencher interested in running for election of Vice President must notify Administration by the deadline on October 31, 2025.

### 7.1 Approval of Bencher Minutes

The following Bencher Minutes were provided for approval:

- a. Minutes from the Bencher meeting held June 20, 2025; and
- b. Minutes from the *Closed* Bencher meeting held June 20, 2025.

## **7.2 Terms of Reference**

Proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group were provided.

Moved by Carly Romanow, seconded by Doug Finnie, that the Open and *Closed* Minutes of the Bencher meetings held June 20, 2025, and the Terms of Reference for the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group be approved, as written. The motion carried.

## **8. Meeting Finalization**

### **8.1 Review Actions to be Taken**

### **8.2 Meeting Evaluation**

The October Convocation survey was released.

### **8.3 Next Meeting – December 4 and 5, 2025, Regina.**

### **8.4 Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Idowu Adetogun and seconded by Lana Morelli. The motion carried and the public meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

**TIMOTHY J. BROWN, K.C.**  
**Executive Director**