

**Minutes for the Meeting of Benchers
Held Thursday, April 30, 2026, via Zoom**

Present:

R. James Fyfe, K.C., President, Laura Klemmer, Vice President, Adam Touet, K.C., Past President, Idowu Adetogun, Keith Amyotte, Jonathon Bodvarson, Daniel Booy, Deborah Giles, Kathryn Gilliss, Jeff Lee, K.C., Michael Marschal, Lana Morelli, Rauncie Murdoch, Tomi Olutunfese, Tiffany Paulsen, K.C., Martin Phillipson, Don Robinson, Carly Romanow and Julie Ann Wriston.

In attendance:

Tim Brown, K.C., Jenna Faris (as recording secretary), Pamela Harmon, CPA, CA, Jennifer Houser, Tim Huber, K.C., Andrea Johnston, Christine Johnston, Kara-Dawn Jordan, K.C., Stephanie Kievits, CPA, CA, Alan Kilpatrick, Jan King, Pamela Kovacs, Jody Martin, Valerie Payne, Paul Westgate and Matthew Wiens.

Stephen McLellan, Director of Insurance at Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association (SLIA) and Amelia Lowe-Muller, Legal Counsel, SLIA, were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Christopher Triggs.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

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

1.3 Bencher Conflict of Interest Disclosures

No conflicts were reported.

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. Draft Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2025, the 2025 Audit Completion Report and a memo from Pamela Harmon, Chief Financial Officer; and
- ii. Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association (SLIA) Memorandum with Insurance Levy Recommendation for the 2026 – 2027 Policy Year.

2. Decision Items

2.1 Approval of Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2025

Approval of the draft Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2025 and appointment of the Auditor for 2026 are required prior to presentation for approval at the Annual General Meeting to be convened on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

Jeff Lee, K.C., Chair of the Audit Committee, reported to the Benchers and Katelle Gillingham, CPA, CA, partner with Virtus Group LLP (external auditor), was present to answer any questions.

Moved by Don Robinson, seconded by Tiffany Paulsen, K.C. to present the December 31, 2025, audited financial statements, as drafted, for approval at the Annual General Meeting. The motion carried.

2.2 Approval of Auditor for 2026

The Audit Committee implemented a new process for evaluating the auditor. The evaluation process and findings were described in the 2025 financial statements memo included in the materials for the Board's consideration.

The Audit Committee made a recommendation to the Board.

Moved by Rauncie Murdoch, seconded by Jonathan Bodvarson, to approve Virtus Group LLP as Auditor for the Law Society in 2026. The motion carried.

2.3 Society Regulation

i. Insurance Levy

Stephen McLellan, Insurance Director at Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association (SLIA), presented a recommendation of the SLIA Board of Directors to the Law Society Board, which is based on an actuarial report and the SLIA Surplus and Risk Management Policy. A SLIA Memorandum with Insurance Levy Recommendations for the 2026 - 2027 Policy Year was included in the materials for the Board's consideration.

Moved by Keith Amyotte, seconded by Jeff Lee, K.C., that the 2026 - 2027 Insurance Levy for lawyers be approved and set at the rate of \$1,546 (\$1,454 per lawyer member plus \$92 for cyber coverage), unchanged from the previous year. The motion carried.

Moved by Kathryn Gilliss, seconded by Deborah Giles, that the 2026 - 2027 Insurance Levy for limited licensees be approved and set at the rate of \$831 (\$739 per limited licensee member plus \$92 for cyber coverage), a 10.8% increase from last year's levy. The motion carried.

Moved by Rauncie Murdoch, seconded by Idowu Adetogun, that Schedule 1.1, Law Society Fees and Assessments for Limited Licensees, Liability Insurance

Assessment, Annual Assessment, be amended to indicate the amount of \$831. The motion carried.

A motion to grant second reading on the same day was presented by Julie Ann Wriston, seconded by Lana Morelli.

Moved by Tomi Olutunfese, seconded by Adam Touet, K.C., that Schedule 1.1, Law Society Fees and Assessments for Limited Licensees, Liability Insurance Assessment, Annual Assessment, be amended to indicate the amount of \$831. The motion carried.

ii. Amendments to the *Code of Professional Conduct for Lawyers*

At March Convocation, the Law Society reviewed and discussed stages for amendments to advance regulatory coherence for limited licensing and entity regulation, beginning with authorizing the division of fees and referral fees as between licensed members (lawyers and limited licensees). A memo was included in the materials that outlined the proposed amendments and included Frequently Asked Questions guidance.

Moved by Don Robinson, seconded by Deborah Giles, to approve amendments to the *Code of Professional Conduct for Lawyers*, as drafted in the memo dated March 31, 2026, to permit the division of fees and referral fees between licensed members of the Law Society. The motion carried.

A motion to grant second reading on the same day was presented by Tiffany Paulsen, K.C., seconded by Kathryn Gilliss.

Moved by Jonathan Bodvarson, seconded by Adam Touet, K.C., to approve amendments to the *Code of Professional Conduct for Lawyers*, as drafted in the memo dated March 31, 2026, to permit the division of fees and referral fees between licensed members of the Law Society. The motion carried.

2.4 Appointments

i. Member Bencher Vacancies

The Nominations Committee met on April 21, 2026, to discuss two member Bencher vacancies: one arising from having no candidates in the East Central electoral division in the 2024 election, and another arising from the judicial appointment of a Bencher from the Regina electoral division earlier this year.

The Nominations Committee made a recommendation to the Board to leave the vacancies unfilled at this time, based on consideration of the Law Society's Member Bencher Vacancy Appointment Policy and ongoing consideration of the Law Society's Board structure.

Moved by Don Robinson, seconded by Idowu Adetogun, to leave the current Bencher vacancies unfilled. The motion carried.

3. Discussion Items

3.1 Society Governance

i. Financial Statements

The internal financial statements for the month ended March 31, 2026, were provided for review and discussion.

Administration noted that the financial statements remain on track and ahead of budget, though it is still premature to make any adjustments to the forecasted budget at this stage. A clearer picture is anticipated at the next Convocation, as it is still early in the fiscal year.

ii. Investments Reports

The TDAM Investment Summary dated March 31, 2026, was provided for review and discussion.

The next Quarterly Investment Report, covering the period from January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026, will be available by early May, in time for June Convocation.

Administration noted that markets have been highly erratic, with a decline in March, followed by a significant recovery in April and ongoing fluctuations. Overall, the position has improved, with a strategic trade-off of liquidity for higher returns, and income continues to exceed the budgeted forecast.

4. Meeting Finalization

4.1 Review Actions to be Taken

4.2 Meeting Evaluation

A meeting evaluation survey was circulated.

4.3 Next Meeting

The next Convocation will be held June 17, 18 and 19, 2026 in Cypress Hills. A Strategic Planning Session is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon and Thursday. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 12:00 pm and the business meeting will be held on Friday morning.

4.4 Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Lana Morelli, seconded by Tomi Olutunfese, to adjourn the meeting.

The public meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm and the *Closed Agenda* portion of the meeting commenced.