

## Summer Newsletter - July 2016

### Save the Dates

#### **CBA Yukon Council Meeting:**

August 8, 12-1:30 pm, High Country Inn

#### **CBA Annual General Meeting:**

September 27, 12-1:30pm, Westmark Whitehorse

### Canadian Legal Conference

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### Family Law Section

**August 5, 2016 9:00 to 11:30** Colin Galinski will speak on Pensions in Family Law. Mr. Galinski practises extensively in the area of pension division on marriage breakdown and he will be speaking on pension division developments and practice tips relevant to pension plans administered in Yukon.



### Message from the President

Summer has finally arrived, and as the 2015-2016 CBA year comes to a close it is time to reflect on what we have accomplished this year. If this year could be summed up by only one word, it would certainly be “change”. Change in how, when and where we do things; change in how we communicate those things to you. Many improvements have been made to provide our members with the high level of services they have come to expect from their professional association.

At the Branch level, our main goal this year was improving value for your membership. Your Executive committee, Section chairs, and Committee members have worked hard to offer additional opportunities for professional development and networking. In particular, the Branch was very pleased this year to revive the Mid-Winter meeting, which provided our local members with an opportunity to earn up to 6.25 CPD hours at a very low cost. The Branch also partnered with the Trudeau Foundation to allow for an opportunity to meet former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada the Hon. Louis LeBel. In order to recognize the invaluable contribution of our volunteers to the success of the Branch, this year we implemented a new “Volunteer of the Year” award, in addition to presenting one of our members with the Long Service Award for the first time since 2011. Change also came in the way we communicate with our members. The implementation of the newsletter you are currently reading is but the first step in our revamped communication strategy.

At the National level, a real sea change is coming our way with the coming adoption and implementation of the new [Governance Model](#) the Board of Directors worked tirelessly to finalize in the last few months. I encourage everyone to take a peek at this new model and see for yourself where the CBA is headed. Highlights of the new model include the following:

- 1) The Board of Directors is reduced from 23 to 14, plus a non-voting CEO. All provinces and territories will be represented. Criteria-balancing skills, demographics, competencies, and legal profession profiles will ensure the Board reflects the diversity of the legal profession. Although coming from different jurisdictions, Board members will be appointed to govern the organization as a whole.
- 2) An Annual General Meeting replaces the CBA National Council. It will be open to all CBA members, either in person or online.

## Updates

### Young Lawyers:

Most of us have trembling knees and sweaty palms when we think about a career change. Sometimes we get too comfortable with what we know. However, the Yukon's Young Lawyers now have tips to make a career move with good balance and without perspiration. Hot off their panel presentation at the reborn CBA Yukon Mid-Winter, the Young Lawyers gathered on April 7, 2016 for a chance to hear tips about having a rewarding and varied career. "Changing Careers without Fears" was a roundtable open discussion among the Yukon's Young Lawyers and Tracey MacPhee, Keith Parkkari and Suzanne Duncan. Tracy, Keith and Suzanne shared their own diverse careers and hints on how young lawyers can have one of their own.

The take away: develop a good set of skills and diverse jobs will follow. This message is especially timely given the Do Law Differently: Futures for Young Lawyers initiative from the CBA. The Young Lawyers would like to thank the Yukon Legal Services Society for the use of their boardroom and Tracy, Suzanne and Keith for sharing their insights – much appreciated. The Young Lawyers are always looking to hear from Yukon CBA Members. Drop us a line ([paul.battin@ppsc-sppc.gc.ca](mailto:paul.battin@ppsc-sppc.gc.ca) or [lauren.a.whyte@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.a.whyte@gmail.com))

### Civil Litigation Section – Rules Committee reactivated

After its recent review and re-issuance of Practice Directions earlier this year, the Yukon Supreme Court has reactivated the Rules Committee to review the YSC Rules of Procedure. The Chair of the Civil Litigation Section (currently Pippa Lawson) has a seat on this committee, together with

3) A Leadership Forum of key CBA constituent groups will meet once a year to discuss strategy and issues. It will bring together the Board of Directors, Branch Presidents, Section Representatives, Young Lawyers, CCCA Chairs and the Management Team.

4) Branches will remain autonomous with regard to budget approval, service delivery and Executive Director recruitment.

5) Common shared administrative functions across the country will generate significant operational efficiencies.

The CBA year 2016-2017 promises to be an exciting one as the CBA starts rolling out a host of new features for its members. I encourage you to renew your membership for a chance to see what the new, revamped CBA has in store for you.

As for myself, I will soon be moving on to my role as Past President of the Yukon Branch. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Executive committee for their support throughout the year. Change also happened in my personal life with the birth of my daughter during my term as President of the Branch. The support I received from Jocelyn, Melissa and Vincent, as well as Laura and Sylvia has been invaluable in these busy times.

Wishing you a happy, healthy and sunny summer.

Geneviève Chabot, President, Canadian Bar Association, Yukon Branch

## Law Day

This spring, the Yukon CBA organized the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Bar Association



Law Day Charity Fun Run and Walk in Whitehorse. The event was held on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Once again, the Fun Run opened the season for running events in the Yukon. Over 125 walkers and runners could be seen on the 5km path along the millennium trail on this sunny day. Lauren Whyte finished as first female racer with a time of 22:12, and Dave Eikelboom finished first overall at 18:04.

Each year, the Fun Run chooses a different charity to be the recipient of funds raised from sponsorships and entrance fees. This year, funds were raised for the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre. The VFWC, based in Whitehorse, is dedicated to supporting all women across socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. The VFWC provides services such as housing, networking, support groups, and workshops.

This year, thanks to the generous support of business owners around Whitehorse, and thanks to the numerous participants who came out, the CBA raised close to \$5000. See you next year!

## Updates

### Civil Litigation Section continued...

several members of the local civil litigation bar. The process is expected to take several months and may result in amendments to some Rules and Forms.

### Privacy/Access Section Update:

The Privacy/Access section, co-chaired by Sarah Overington and Pippa Lawson, held a CLE event on June 7, 2016 on the new *Health Information Privacy Management Act*, expected to be proclaimed later this summer. Alison Shea, Senior Privacy Analyst with the Department of Health and Social Services, gave an excellent presentation with an emphasis on issues of interest to lawyers, followed by Q&A. The session was well-attended by public and private sector members and feedback was uniformly positive. Alison noted that there is likely to be demand for legal advice from custodians of personal health information as a result of this new legislation.

## Volunteer Opportunity

The Canadian Bar Association Yukon Branch is *seeking a Secretary-Treasurer* for the 2016-17 season. Are you interested in participating in this dynamic professional association? We would love to hear from you! Please send a short statement of interest to [cbayukon@northwestel.net](mailto:cbayukon@northwestel.net) by September 16.

## Spring Cocktail Reception & Fireside Chat

On May 18, the CBA Yukon Branch held two very special events. In partnership with the Trudeau Foundation, we invited Mr. Justice Louis LeBel, formerly of the Supreme Court of Canada, for a fireside chat in which Justice LeBel talked about his life, his work and some topics of interest for the North. Approximately 50 people, both members and non-members, attended the event.

The fireside chat with Justice LeBel was followed by our Spring Cocktail Reception, a new event the Yukon Branch organized notably to celebrate the contribution of some of our outstanding volunteers. The Long Service Award was presented to Debbie Hoffman, long time Chair of the Family Law Section, and the new Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Marlaine Anderson-Lindsay for her outstanding contribution in organizing the Mid-Winter meeting.

The Spring cocktail reception was also the opportunity to present representatives from the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, this year's chosen charity, with the proceeds of \$5,000 from the Law Day Fun Run and Walk, to bid farewell to our long time Executive Director, Laura Davidson, and welcome her successor Sylvia Gibson.

