

**VICTORIA BAR ASSOCIATION  
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF MAY 15, 2007**

Meeting called to order by Kerry Simmons at 5:02 pm.

Members present:

Kerry Simmons	James Legh
Michael Cooper	Richard Stewart
Andrew Petter	Sue Wishart
Kismet Bhandar	Charlotte Salomon
Meneka Giri	

Guest: Jennifer Moroskat, Career Development Officer

1. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2007 meeting by Charlotte Salomon, seconded by Sue Wishart – carried.

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

a. PAST CORRESPONDENCE – Kerry Simmons mentioned correspondence:

1. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Court of Appeal - Doug Macfarlane sent information to Kerry regarding the continuing efforts of a Vancouver-based committee co-ordinating events to celebrate the anniversary in 2010. Doug has been attending these yearly meetings when he can for the past three years and will continue to do so and provide updates to the VBA President from time to time. In Victoria, there will likely be a Special Sitting of the Court of Appeal in 2010 to acknowledge the event and closer to that date, more involvement of the VBA will be required.
2. Donald Linge inquired whether the VBA kept a list of locums or local solo or small practitioners who are able to cover another lawyers' practice for short periods of vacation. We do not have such as list but the CBA may have one. Kerry will confirm the existence of the CBA list and inform Mr. Linge. In the next newsletter, we will invite those seeking this kind of assistance and those interested in providing the assistance to contact the VBA so that this information can be exchanged for those who want it.
3. Michael Veletta wrote to the VBA about two points. The first was in response to Jim Legh's earlier discussion about phone book advertising and the need for lawyers to jointly consider and deal with the phone book companies to reduce the amount of money spent on advertising. Jim will speak to

Michael about this issue and they will work on any initiatives they wish to pursue.

The second point was to conduct a survey of Victoria bar members in the areas of fixed or flat rate fees for conveyancing matters, desk order or uncontested divorces, wills, etc with a view to publishing that information and encouraging reasonable fees rather than cut rate fees in those areas. Kerry Simmons advised in her capacity as the CBA Business of Law Committee chair that the Business of Law Committee looked at that issue in detail last year and is making a recommendation to Executive Council that a province-wide survey of this sort be conducted and the results published. If such a survey is sponsored by the CBA, the VBA executive would encourage responses by our local members to that survey. Michael advised that the IP Insistute of Canada regularly conducts such a survey. Andrew noted that Tim McGee of the LSBC can probably offer some input with respect to the anti-competition concerns. Kerry will advise Mr. Veletta about this initiative. If the CBA Executive decides not to pursue this within the next year, the VBA can consider doing its own survey.

- b. VICTORIA CALL CEREMONIES – The next call ceremony (usually the largest) is June 7, 2007.

**3. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Scott Farquhar sent his regrets and advised that he has received one award nomination and that a reminder will be sent to the Bar in June.

**4. TRESURER’S REPORT:**

- a. Michael Cooper reported that the bank balance stands at \$6,127.27 as of May 15, 2007. The CBA (BC) Benevolent Society was sent \$6943.75 from the Battle of the Bar Bands.

**5. SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR:**

- a. Lawyers/Accountants Golf Tournament- June 1 – Charlotte Salmon advised that 20 lawyers have signed up and there is room available for more. Lawyers can attend the dinner portion only if they prefer. She provided Michael with cheques from those lawyers and noted that we will turn that revenue over to the accountants. All proceeds from the event (which includes a silent auction) will go to the Vancouver Island Head Injury Society.
- b. Summer Dinner at Deep Cove Chalet – June 14 – there is room available so sign up!
- c. Golf Tournament – September 20 – Charlotte hasn’t been able to reach Richard Fyfe for assistance in co-ordinating this event. Jim Legh said that he and his office would provide assistance to Charlotte as well.

6. **SPEAKERS SERIES** – Kismet Bhandar advised that the committee will continue to consider options for another speaker. She welcomes any suggestions.
7. **COURT LIASISON:** Kismet Bhandar has received approximately 90 of 160 renewals for the court boxes and provided Michael with cheques. She has issued new leases for firms with new names. She has not received any responses with respect to the court lockers
8. **LAW DAY:** Kerry Simmons reported that next Law Day on April 21 was a success with over 400 people passing through the courthouse. There were lots of volunteers and participants from the local bar as well as Court Services and Sheriff Services. Next year she and Sarah Klinger are stepping away from leading the organizing committee and the committee needs new leadership and volunteers. If you are interested, please let Kerry know.
9. **WEBSITE AND EMAIL:** Scott is covering email distribution while Nisha is away until mid-June.
10. **NEWSLETTER:** The newsletter went out at the beginning of May. At the end of June, Jim will prepare the next newsletter – submissions, information, news tidbits are welcomed.
11. **BENCHER'S REPORT:** Richard Stewart reported that:
  - a. He attended a Credentials Committee retreat.
  - b. At the last Benchers meeting, the revised ADR Report was presented and approved without controversy by the benchers. An earlier version of the report presented in December 2005 had been tabled but not approved due to varying views among the benchers about certain wording in the report.
  - c. Amendments to the Legal Profession Act have now gone through the Legislature. It takes a long time for changes to be implemented and this batch has now passed.
  - d. The Benchers Annual Retreat is in Campbell River in June.
12. **CBA REPORT:** Kay Melbye sent her regrets. Kerry reported that the CBA County Rep election concluded with Roxanne Helme, Wendy Everson, Carmen Rogers and Kerry as the successful candidates who will join with Sue Wishart to represent Victoria for this upcoming year. Kerry also noted that this is the time of year when sections seek new executive members and she encouraged interested individuals to contact section chairs to volunteer.
13. **UVIC REPORT:** Andrew Petter:
  - a. Advised that UVic has provided the Faculty with planning funds for the library renovation. Neil Campbell would welcome local bar input in that process and Andrew will talk with Kerry about soliciting that input.
  - b. Convocation is June 8 at 2:30 and Kathryn Berge will represent the LSBC to present the Gold Medal to Christine Joseph who, in a year, will clerk for the Chief Justice at the Supreme Court of Canada.

- c. The exhibition *Lawyers Without Rights* will come to Victoria in November/December last year. The exhibit focuses on the lawyers in Nazi Germany and inspires a discussion of not only lawyers rights, but the rights of individuals. Local members of the bar are invited to view and participate with the exhibit.

Andrew introduced Jennifer Moroskat, Career Development Officer. Among the topics Ms. Moroskat discussed were the following:

- a) The annual BC Firms' Wine & Cheese is September 20 in the late afternoon and any Victoria who wishes to participate can do so. We noted it was the same day as the VBA Golf Tournament which may or may not affect some firm's participation.
- b) In March, the Nanaimo City Bar Association hosted a reception at a law firm in Nanaimo and invited UVIC and UBC students to meet and hear about practice in Nanaimo. Twenty-five students including 15 from UVIC attended. The Bar Association funded the reception and provided a travel allowance to the students. She inquired whether or not the VBA might be interested in doing something similar at a time convenient to when the local bar is more interested in thinking of students. We discussed the range of hiring practices in Victoria with respect to articling students as part of this discussion. Kerry noted that the Young Lawyers section does something similar, usually in January, but expanding that event to involve Jennifer's office and more of the decision-makers in the local firms would be a good thing. We considered that the Barristers Lounge could be a suitable venue.
- c) Shared articles and secondments. We discussed the CBA Shared Articles Registry. Some VBA members shared their practice of secondments. Jennifer noted that students are interested in this but it is often difficult to set up when the firms aren't aware of the practice.

As a result of the conversation, we concluded the following:

- a) Jennifer is invited to and will provide submissions for the newsletter about topics such as shared articles, secondments during articles, what her office does, offering to post associate positions to the alumni database, etc.
- b) Jennifer and Kerry will further discuss a local law firm reception in the Barristers Lounge for some time in January and will co-ordinate the event with the next Young Lawyers section chair.
- c) Jennifer will keep a list of firms interested in hosting and those who need to share an articling student or arrange a secondment for the purpose of providing that information to other firms so that the firms can contact each other to arrange terms.

**14. ADJOURNMENT** – the meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.