
VICTORIA
Bar Association 

This newsletter is published by the VBA approximately six times a year. It provides members of the local Bar with information about VBA events, the activities of its members and issues of importance to you. As this is a developing product, any constructive advice, criticism, or assistance is greatly appreciated. Comments can be emailed to leg@sl.ca.

VBA MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Victoria Bar Association is pleased to announce the reduction in the fees for 2007. As you should be aware, membership in the VBA is for a calendar year. Everyone needs to sign up again as of January 1, 2007. Membership fees are one of our main sources of revenue, however as we also generate some revenue from the court boxes, we have set the 2007 fees at only \$25.00.

The membership form is attached. Please sign up now for 2007.

INSIGHTS INTO THE LOCAL BAR

We try to keep members informed on any developments within the local Bar. If you become aware of any members changing firms, passing away, receiving awards, or any issue that may be of general interest, please tell us.

Congratulations are in order for **Jeff Green** and **Mike O'Connor** who were recently appointed Queen's Counsel.

Susen Johnson is leaving us to practice in Vancouver and will be resigning from the executive effective December 31, 2006. **Kismet Bhandar** has agreed to become the Court Liaison.

Meredith Parkes has relocated from Borden Ladner Gervais to practice at the BC Assessment Authority. She previously clerked and articulated in Victoria from 1999-2000.

Art Luney has relocated from Vancouver to join **Straith & Co.** **Graham Jones** has joined **McConnan Bion O'Connor & Peterson.** **Dianne G. Andiel** moved to #213 - 895 Fort Street.

Melissa Murray has left **Cook Roberts** to join the Solicitor General's Intellectual Property Group and **Troy Taillefer** has left **Cook Roberts** to join Webster Hudson Akerly in Vancouver.

Joan Young has joined **Marli Rusen** and **Murray Rankin, QC** in the Victoria office of **Heenan Blaikie LLP.**

Glen A. Crawford Law Corporation has moved to #200-911 Yates Street in the offices of **Wilson Marshall Law Corporation**.

Armstrong Nikolich is no more. The law firm of **Armstrong Wellman** and been created and will be located at #301 - 754 Broughton Street. **Peter Nikolich** will now practice as a sole practioner at #202-1006 Fort Street.

The new law firm of **Reed Pope LLP** has opened at 200-848 Courtney. Those practicing there include Keith Reed, Sara Pope, Mary Brunton and James Hall.

The December 14, 2006 *Call Ceremony* in Victoria saw a number of transfers called to our Province and a few new lawyers as well. **Cathleen Herrera**, transferred in from Ontario. **Lisa Collins QC** transferred in via Manitoba and Ontario and will be with **Luminira Law Corporation**. **James Bryce** a graduate from UVic looking to stay in Victoria. **Edward Hermann** transferred in from Manitoba and is now working in Courtney with **Allen & Company**. **Jitka Popela** was called. **David MacDonell** transferred from Alberta and will be at **Beacon Law Centre**. **Nicole Jedlinski** transferred from Ontario and will be with **Cook Roberts**. **J. Berry Hykin** from UVic will be with **Morahan & Company**. **Monique Shebbeare** transferred from Ontario and is now with **Berge, Hart & Cassells**.

If you know of other moves or additions in town, please send them to James Legh (legh@sll.ca) for the VBA newsletter, The Praeipce.

NOTICES

CURLING – IT IS COMING UP QUICKLY

Curling is one of the few Canadian pastimes everyone should be able to say they have participated in. Even those who have never played can still come out and have fun with the game. The VBA annually puts on a tournament, complete with a trophy (housed in the Barrister's Lounge), prizes, lunch, and fun.

Date: Saturday, **January 27, 2007** 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Place: Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre

Price: \$80.00 per team of four/ \$20.00 per person

Staff and families are welcome. Individuals are needed to fill space on teams.

Please contact Richard Fyfe richard.fyfe@gov.bc.ca, [250-387-0319] or Charlotte Salomon csalomon@mcbop.com as soon as possible.

Law Day News

April 21, 2007 is Law Day at the Victoria Courthouse. The theme, Access to Justice, will be celebrated through public legal education seminars, resource rooms for specific areas of law, sheriff's tours, discussion with judges, and police seminars. The fairy tale trial of Alice in Wonderland will determine whether Alice is guilty of disturbing the peace and theft under \$1000. If you can volunteer as a member of the organizing committee, have

ideas to share, can volunteer on Law Day or would like to be part of the resource room or public legal education seminars, contact Sarah Klinger at sklinger@waddellraioni.com or Kerry Simmons at ksimmons@cardlaw.com.

Victoria Bar Round Table Luncheon (formerly, Inns of Court)

Date: January 4, 2007

Topic: Adverse Inference

Barbara Flewelling at MacIsaac & Company, Telephone 381-5353 and Michael O'Meara at Michael O'Meara & Company, Telephone 475-6529 are organising a lunch and round table discussion at the Union Club, Begbie Room on January 4, 2007 at 12:00 noon. Come enjoy a stimulating discussion on adverse inference for failure to call witnesses in an action. Messrs. Neil Carfra and Robert Cameron will be leading the debate, which, if past experience is any indication, should be very informative. The cost of the lunch is a mere \$30 and is limited to 30 seats. Judge Bouck (Retired) will be in attendance and is expected to contribute his insights to this discussion.

Booking space in the Barristers Lounge

All members are entitled to use the Lounge and can book it for law related activities and meetings. If you wish to do so, call Kerry Simmons or Sarah Budgell at 386-8707 or email Kerry at ksimmons@cardlaw.com.

BC CBA Member Dispute Resolution Service

The BC CBA Member Dispute Resolution Service is a mediation service run by lawyer volunteers who will assist you on a confidential basis to help resolve disputes or conflicts with your colleagues, principals, students or staff, which are not reportable Law Society matters. It is your chance to engage a lawyer/mediator and seek quiet counsel on how to handle the matter and where necessary have the volunteer intervene on your behalf with the other party.

The Members Dispute Committee is in the third year of a three-year pilot project. In June of 2007, the Committee will be making recommendations to the executive regarding the continuation of this service.

The Committee needs to hear from you about the benefits or shortfall of this dispute resolution service. Please contact either Odette Cocola (380-1566) or Eugene Raponi (385-4311) with your input. Additional information is available from the CBA website at www.cba.org/BC

RECENT EVENTS

Christmas Lunch December 6, 2006

The Christmas Lunch was held at the Union Club again this year. This traditional event was very well attended and provided the annual opportunity for the members to introduce

their current students to those present. It appears we have a number of excellent members about to join us.

The VBA was also pleased to have **Thomas Broeren** speak. He is a consultant working with Court Services Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General on the development of electronic filing for the BC courts. A pilot of the *Court Services Online e-file system* began last year and will be implemented in 2007. Mr. Broeren provided a brief overview of the process and opportunities we will have in the future to file electronically with the court.

FUTURE EVENTS

Dates to note on your calendar include:

1. Curling Saturday, January 27, 9-1:30 at Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre.
2. January 25, 2007 – retirement dinner for Judge Filmer will occur (this is not a VBA event).
3. April 19, 2007 has been booked for the Spring Dinner at the Fireside Grill.
4. Friday March 9, 2007 is the planned date for the Battle of the Bar Bands

WWW.VICBAR.COM

The Web site is functional, including the forum section, please take a look. This section will be for members only to exchange information and ideas of interest to the local Bar. (Including complaints regarding the activities of the executive)

LAW COURTS LIBRARY

You might not have received a library card yet, but you will now need one to withdraw books from the courthouse. If you need one, please contact the library staff.

UVIC UPDATE:

Seasons Greetings from all of us at UVic Law. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday with best wishes for 2007!

We bid farewell to Professor Don Casswell, who is retiring from the Faculty. Over the past 26 years, Don has taught many of our alumni and contributed significantly to the life of the law school.

We welcome Professor Judy Fudge, who joins us in January. Judy is the new Lansdowne Chair in Law, replacing John McLaren who retired last year, and will be teaching Employment Law and an advanced Labour Law seminar.

Members of the profession are invited to enrol in the following summer programs being offered by UVic Law:

- The Asian Summer Law Program (June 25th to August 3rd 2007) held at UVic Law – for further information and to register visit www.law.uvic.ca/Admissions/summer_info.php
- The International Intellectual Property Law Program (July 1st to August 10th 2007) held at Oxford University (UK). For further information and to register visit www.uvcs.uvic.ca/ip/

CBA UPDATE:

The CBA is holding its 2007 Mid-Winter Meeting of Council in Mount Tremblant, Quebec, February 15 –17, 2007. If you are not a council member and would like to attend and vote, please contact Kay Melbye at 595-2220.

2007 VBA EXECUTIVE

President	Kerry Simmons
Past President	James A. S. Legh
Vice President	Scott Farquhar
Treasurer	Michael Cooper
Secretary	Noel Lenaghan
Social Co-ordinators	Richard Fyfe & Charlotte A. Salomon
Meeting Co-ordinator	Roxanne Helme

Directors: Nisha Bathe, Gary Kinar, Kismet T. Bhandar, Kay Melbye, Carmen Rogers, Sue Wishart, Joan M. Young, Robert J.M. Janes, Menaka Giri, Renée A. Miller, and Brooke A. MacLeod

Bencher Representatives	Kathryn Berge Richard Stewart
CBA Representative	Kay Melbye
UVic Liaison	Andrew Petter

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Our meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month, in the Barrister's lounge at the Court House, (unless moved in conjunction with another event such as the spring dinner). If you wish to bring a matter to the attention of the Board or to participate in a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Kerry Simmons in advance.

CONCLUSION

If you are reading this, you have lived through 2006 and are now enjoying the bountiful wonder of 2007. Kerry Simmons is now the president of the VBA, replacing James A. S. Legh.

Briefly recapping what when on in 2006, a number of issues were raised, few resolved. We paid out the balance of the VBA's commitment to a bursary endowment at UVic in

the amount of \$10,795.00. This commitment of years past, has now been met by the membership and establishes an ongoing bursary to assist a deserving student annually at UVic.

We are on the cusp of resolving how to formally address the passing “to a better place” of our members. We continue our discussions with the Victoria Medical Association on setting up opportunities for our members to interact. It is hoped that a dinner for both sets of members, with speakers of mutual interest will be arranged for the spring.

The interest of the local bar on Technological issues was less than overwhelming (although it is clearly something people are interested in – when they have time). Using technology has certainly facilitated the VBA’s ability to communicate with its members using a comprehensive email list (in this regard, if you know of anyone who is not on our email list and should be, please advise Nisha Bathe at Nisha.Bathe@gov.bc.ca.)

For 2007, the local Bar continues to expand. The public's pressure on all its institutions, including the justice system continues to grow. The legal community is continuing to look at ways to streamline and address the concerns of the public (a process started only 2000 years ago). Lawyers still take too much unwarranted flack for the ills of society. Global warming is a reality.

However, there is as always hope. The world might cope with warming, the legal system will change and improve in time, health care will not revert to the standards of 1907, but of course lawyers will always be the recipients of unfair criticism. Thankfully lawyers are well equipped to handle the critics.

I wish each of you a prosperous and enjoyable 2007.

James A. S. Legh



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Facsimile: (250) 386-3265

2007 Membership Application or Renewal

The Membership Fee of \$25 is due now.

Membership is a prerequisite to attendance at VBA dinners

The Victoria Bar Association:

- Organizes the summer dinner at Deep Cove Chalet and three other dinners/lunches
- Organizes social events including the Curling Bonspiel
- Administers the court boxes and the Barristers' Lounge
- Pays the Courthouse Access card fee on behalf of members
- Maintains the website, www.vicbar.com including the FORUM for member communication
- Recognizes lawyers for their significant work in the community and in the practice of law through annual awards including the Pam Murray Award
- Contributes to an endowment fund at the Faculty of Law for the support of law students
- Facilitates communication of local events to the membership
- Promotes Law Day
- Liaises with Court Services, the Canadian Bar Association, the Law Society and other law-related organizations.

Please return this form and your cheque in the amount of \$25 payable to the Victoria Bar Association to Kerry Simmons, Registrar, Cardinal Law, Court Box #87, or 3rd Floor, 736 Broughton Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1E1

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Firm/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____