
[489]

APPROVED Public Minutes
of the Four Hundred and Eighty-Ninth Meeting
of the Benchers of the Law Society of Alberta (“Law Society”)
held at Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, Alberta
June 7, 2018

Benchers present:

Donald Cranston, President
Robert Armstrong, President-Elect
Ryan Anderson
Glen Buick
Arman Chak
Robert Dunster
Corie Flett
Bill Hendsbee
Karen Hewitt
Cal Johnson
Linda Long
Jim Lutz
Bud Melnyk
Walter Pavlic
Stacy Petriuk
Robert Philp
Kathleen Ryan
Darlene Scott
Kent Teskey
Amal Umar
Margaret Unsworth
Louise Wasylenko
Nate Whitling

Regrets:

Sandra Corbett

Executive Leadership Team members present:

Don Thompson, Executive Director and CEO
Elizabeth Osler, Deputy Executive Director and
Director, Regulation
Cori Ghitter, Director, Professionalism and Policy
Andrew Norton, Director, Business Technology
Drew Thomson, Chief Financial Officer

Staff present:

Paule Armeneau, General Counsel and Senior
Manager, Regulation
Colleen Brown, Manager, Communications
Nancy Carruthers, Manager, Professionalism and
Ethics
Ruth Corbett, Governance Administrator
Christine Schreuder, Governance Coordinator
Ryan Stephanson, Business Technology Support

Guests and observers present:

Don Avison, Executive Director & Chief Executive
Officer, Law Society of British Columbia
Martine Boucher, CEO, Simplex Legal
Kris Dangerfield, Chief Executive Officer, Law Society
of Manitoba
Frank Demont, First Vice-President, Nova Scotia
Barristers’ Society
Frank Friesacher, President, Canadian Bar Association
Alberta
Jonathan Herman, CEO, Federation of Law Societies of
Canada
Sheila MacPherson, President, Federation of Law
Societies of Canada
Paul Paton, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta

Sandra Petersson, Director, Alberta Law Reform
Institute
Tilly Pillay, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Barristers'
Society
Stephen Raby, Alberta Representative, Federation of
Law Societies of Canada

The public meeting was called to order at 10:45 am on June 7, 2018.

1 Opening Remarks from the Chair

Don Cranston

The Chair opened the meeting with the following land acknowledgement statement:

We wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation. This area is very special to the traditional people of this territory. We would like to pay respect to all the Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

The Chair welcomed Benchers, guests and staff to the public meeting.

2 Election of Bencher to the Executive Committee

Don Cranston

Documentation circulated for this item included the Chair's memo regarding the statements of intention for election to the Executive Committee to replace Ms. Dilts, the approved election procedures, and the applicable Rules of the Law Society. The Chair advised the Benchers that Ms. Scott declared her intention to stand for election to the Executive Committee. The Chair called for nominations from the floor and none were received. The Chair closed the nominations and Ms. Scott was elected by acclamation.

3 Committee Appointments

Don Cranston

A memo from the Nominating Committee and the 2018 Committees List were circulated with the meeting materials. The Chair presented the motions.

Motion:

1. To appoint Bill Hendsbee to all adjudication committees and the Innovating Regulation Task Force;

- 2. To appoint Cal Johnson as Vice-Chair of the Innovating Regulation Task Force to replace Rob Armstrong;**
- 3. To approve the following appointments to replace Madam Justice Nancy Dilts:**
 - a. Darlene Scott as Vice-Chair of the Conduct Committee;**
 - b. Walter Pavlic as Vice-Chair of the Appeal Committee;**
 - c. Karen Hewitt to the Policy Committee;**
 - d. Rob Armstrong to the University of Calgary Faculty of Law Council; and**
 - e. Bud Melnyk to the Board of the Alberta Lawyers Assistance Society.**

The appointments will take effect immediately.

**Seconded
Carried**

Motion:

To endorse the reappointment of Ruth Schwab to the Notaries Public Review Committee as the Law Society representative and Chair.

**Seconded
Carried**

4 ALIEX Advisory Board report and appointments

Steve Raby

A report from the ALIEX Executive Committee was circulated with the meeting materials. The report was comprised of two parts: a recommendation to the Benchers for director appointments from the Executive Committee, which acts as the Nominating Committee for ALIEX, and a report to the Benchers on recent ALIEX and ALIA activities.

The Advisory Board Chair presented the recommendation for appointments to the Advisory Board, highlighting the background, succession planning process followed, and proposed appointments, noting that the Benchers have the exclusive power to appoint the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board Chair advised the Benchers that approval of the recommendation will continue the staggering of terms of appointment and improve gender balance, geographical representation and the balance of internal and independent directors. The Advisory Board Chair confirmed that there are no material financial ramifications resulting from the recommendation.

Resolved as a resolution of the Benchers of the Law Society of Alberta:

- 1. The number of Alberta Lawyers Insurance Exchange (“ALIEX”) Advisory Board members remain at 10.**
- 2. The resignation of Nancy Dilts from the ALIEX Advisory Board effective May 4, 2018 is accepted.**
- 3. Carsten Jensen will complete his term effective June 9, 2018 and is not being reappointed.**
- 4. The following persons are appointed to the ALIEX Advisory Board effective June 10, 2018 for a term expiring on the date of the first Bencher meeting after May 31, 2021, or their sooner resignation or removal from office:**

**Sheri Epp;
Zoe Harrison; and
Dale Spackman.**

- 5. This resolution shall be effective only if passed by the affirmative votes of at least 2/3 of the Benchers so voting and the Benchers so voting constitute a majority of the Benchers.**

**Seconded
Carried by more than 2/3 majority**

5 President’s Report

Don Cranston

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials. The Chair invited Benchers to address their comments and questions to him during or outside of meetings.

6 Executive Director’s Report

Don Thompson

The Executive Director’s report was circulated with the meeting materials.

7 Alberta Law Reform Institute (ALRI) Report

Sandra Petersson

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials. Ms. Petersson highlighted ALRI’s work on a report and recommendations for property division for common law couples. The Benchers will receive a copy of the final report as soon as it becomes public.

8 Canadian Bar Association (CBA) Alberta Report

Frank Friesacher

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials. Mr. Friesacher advised the Board that CBA Alberta is currently engaged in a governance review and, in response to national trends, the first decision was to move away from a Council and to create a 13-person Board of Directors. Mr. Friesacher added that the CBA Alberta greatly values the positive relationships with the Law Society and other bodies.

9 Federation of Law Societies of Canada Report

Steve Raby

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

10 Legal Education Society of Alberta Report

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

11 Pro Bono Law Alberta Report

Corie Flett

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

There being no further business the public meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.