



# THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

ANNUAL REPORT 2001

## OUR MISSION

*To serve the public interest by promoting a high standard of legal services and professional conduct through the governance and regulation of an independent legal profession.*



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# THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA



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## THE BENCHERS

Eric F. Macklin, QC      President

Kenneth G. Nielsen, QC      President-Elect

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Larry G. Anderson, QC        | John D. Bascom, QC              |
| Everett L. Bunnell, QC       | Mona T. Duckett, QC             |
| Anthony L. Friend, QC        | Charles D. Gardner, QC          |
| Cheryl C. Gottselig, QC      | Alain Hepner, QC                |
| Bryan E. Mahoney, QC         | Jean McBean, QC                 |
| Douglas A. McGillivray, QC   | James S. Peacock, QC            |
| Norman F. WM. Picard, QC     | Simon Renouf, QC                |
| Rhonda K. Ruston, QC         | W. Paul Sharek, QC              |
| Hugh D. Sommerville, QC      | Yvonne A. Stanford, lay bencher |
| Morris Taylor, lay bencher   | Juliana E. Topolniski, QC       |
| Wilfred Willier, lay bencher |                                 |

## OFFICERS

Peter L. Freeman, QC - Executive Director (until July 2001)  
 Don Thompson, Executive Director (after July 2001)  
 James D. McLeod - Deputy Secretary  
 Steven Dyer, MBA, CFE - Chief Financial Officer  
 Sarah J. Brickett - Director of Insurance  
 Lindsay MacDonald, QC - Counsel  
 Barry Vogel, QC - Practice Advisor

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# THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA



The Mission of the Law Society of Alberta is "To serve the public interest by promoting a high standard of legal services and professional conduct through the governance and regulation of an independent legal profession."

A self-governing society, the Society derives its authority from the *Legal Profession Act* of Alberta. The legislature has respected the fundamental democratic tradition that the legal profession should be independent of government and should regulate itself.

## Self Regulation and Benchers

Every two years Alberta lawyers elect 20 of their members to serve as benchers. The benchers act as a board of directors who meet regularly and serve without remuneration, except the president who is chosen by the benchers and receives an honourarium. Although elected by the profession at large, each three provincial districts (north, central and south) outside of Calgary and Edmonton is entitled to one resident bencher regardless of overall vote.

The Society also has three non-lawyer lay benchers (public representatives) who are appointed by the Attorney General. As fully participating benchers, the lay benchers serve on committees and discipline panels. They enrich the discussion on many public interest issues and open the workings of the profession to public scrutiny.

## Professional Standards

The Alberta legal profession has a comprehensive code of ethical standards to which all lawyers must adhere. These standards are contained in the *Legal Profession Act*, *The Rules* and *The Code of Professional Conduct*, court decisions, and Conduct Committee and hearing

committee decisions. In case of doubt, lawyers also refer to authoritative text books and journals, and seek guidance in the form of a written opinion from the Professional Responsibility Committee.

The education requirements for lawyers include a three year law school program, one year as an articling student (learning by working with a senior lawyer), and the completion of the bar admission course. The bar admission course, directed by the Society through the Legal Education Society of Alberta, focuses on core practice areas, lawyering skills, and professional attitudes. A comprehensive set of practice area examinations and skill assessments ensure that only those lawyers with a clearly demonstrated level of competence are admitted to the profession.

## Lawyers' Fees

The Society is not involved in the regulation of lawyers' fees. Clients may apply to the court for an independent fee review (taxation) of their legal fees. As an alternative to the taxation process, voluntary fee mediation is available through the Society. Lawyers who charge an unreasonably high fee may be disciplined by the Society. For persons without the ability to pay a lawyer, Legal Aid is available. Founded in 1970 by the Society and the provincial government, Legal Aid offers assistance to the disadvantaged.

## Penalties for misconduct

A lawyer who is guilty of professional misconduct may be reprimanded, fined up to \$10,000, suspended from practice or disbarred. Conditions of practice may also be imposed on a lawyer. While some cases of questionable conduct are dealt with through the discipline

process, efforts are made to resolve others through reviews, mentors, education upgrading or counselling.

## Public Protection

In 1969, the Society instituted the first mandatory insurance program in Canada. Every lawyer practising in Alberta must purchase liability insurance, with a \$1,000,000 limit of liability per occurrence. Many lawyers purchase additional insurance. The additional amount depends on the size of the firm and type of law practised. The combination of compulsory and optional insurance protects the public and spreads the cost of insurance equitably across the profession. Since 1984, the Insurance Committee has mounted an aggressive loss prevention program, publishing comprehensive practice checklists and manuals, and sponsoring free seminars on law office management and loss prevention techniques.

In addition to insurance for lawyers' liability, the public is protected for losses suffered through a lawyer's misappropriation of trust funds. The Assurance Fund, established in 1939, was the first of its kind in Canada. Every active lawyer in the province contributes to this fund.

To ensure the public continues to receive the highest quality of legal services, the Society is vigilant in protecting the public against unqualified persons illegally practising law.

## Services

The Society offers a variety of services to both lawyers and the general public. In addition to those programs outlined elsewhere in this report, the Society offers the following:

### Office of the Practice Advisor

Confidential free advice for lawyers is available from Practice Advisor Barry Vogel, QC and Practice Management Advisor Paul McLaughlin. Mr. Vogel is available to discuss legal, ethical, and practice concerns and personal matters such as stress and addiction. He will also mediate and arbitrate interlawyer disputes. Mr. McLaughlin provides assistance in practice management, automation and office administration, with a focus on the needs of sole practitioners and members practising in smaller settings. Both will travel anywhere in Alberta for meetings with members. The Office of the Practice Advisor also offers a Mentor Program in family law, criminal law, civil litigation, wills and estates, and real property.

### Lawyer Referral Service

The Society operates a Lawyer Referral Service to help people find a lawyer to provide the legal services they require. An information service, Lawyer Referral is not connected with Legal Aid, nor does it provide any financially subsidized legal services. To use the Lawyer Referral Service, phone toll free from anywhere in Alberta by dialling 1-800-661-1095 or 228-1722 in Calgary and a lawyer referral operator will answer. After being advised of the nature of the problem or the areas of law of concern, the operator will provide the caller with the names and telephone numbers of three lawyers practising in the applicable field of law. The caller can then make an appointment with one, two or all three of those lawyers, advising that they were referred by Lawyer Referral. There is no charge for the first half hour interview, after which the caller can decide whether or not to engage the lawyer at the full fee rate, and the lawyer can decide whether to accept the engagement.

### Publications

The Law Society of Alberta publishes *The Benchers' Advisory* five times annually, and contributes to the publication of the joint Canadian Bar Association - Law Society of Alberta *Newsletter*. All publications are available on the Society's website, [www.lawsocietyalberta.com](http://www.lawsocietyalberta.com) or by calling our Central Records Department at (403) 229-4737 or 1-800-661-9003.

#### *Pamphlets available from the Law Society of Alberta include:*

\*Buying Your Home: Facts to Know Before you Sign

\*Civil Actions: The Process if You Sue or if You Are being Sued

\*The Criminal Justice System: Your Rights When Arrested or Charged

Have You Planned Your Estate?

Lawyers of Alberta: Serving the Public Interest

Public Relations Suggestions for the Practising Lawyer

\*Reviewing the Conduct of Lawyers

\*Understanding Your Lawyer's Fee When You Divorce or Separate

Lawyers & Legal Agents/Paralegals/Legal Assistants

Fee Mediation

Lawyers & Clients

A Career as a Lawyer

\* *available in French.*

## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

### Distinguished Service Awards

Each year the Canadian Bar Association - Alberta Branch and the Law Society of Alberta present special awards in recognition of outstanding contributions made by Alberta lawyers to the community, the legal profession and legal scholarship. On January 26, 2002, distinguished service awards were presented to six Alberta lawyers in recognition of their outstanding distinguished service. **Jack N. Angrios, QC** (Edmonton) and **T. Catherine Christopher** (Calgary) received awards for service to the community; **Stephen Hart Wood, QC** (Calgary), **James D. Ross** (Edmonton) and **Duncan A. Stewart, QC** (Edmonton) received an award for service to the profession, and **Professor Frederik A. Laux, QC** (Edmonton) received the award for legal scholarship.

### 2001 Viscount Bennett Awards

Alberta graduate students **Shaun C. Fluker**, **Barbara von Tigerstrom** and **Colin C. J. Feasby** were the recipients of the 2001 Viscount Bennett Scholarships, valued at \$15,000. The scholarships are funded from a trust fund established with a gift from the right Honourable Viscount Bennett, P.C., K.C. The annual awards for post graduate studies in law are presented to individuals with high scholastic abilities who are dedicated to their community and profession, and wish to further their legal education.

**Shaun C. Fluker**, LLB graduated from the University of Victoria in 1995 and became an associate lawyer at Parlee McLaws from 1995-1997 and McManus Thomson Deom from 1997-1999. In May 1999 he became a partner at Fluker Janke, where he still practises. In September 2001 Shaun began the LLM program at the University of Calgary.

**Barbara von Tigerstrom, LLB** graduated from the University of Toronto in 1997 and articulated at Cook Duke Cox/Miller Thomson (Edmonton). She was the project coordinator at the Health Law Institute, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta from 1999-2000 and is currently in the Ph.D. program at the University of Cambridge completing a three year research degree.

**Colin C. J. Feasby, LLB** graduated from the University of Alberta and was an associate with Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt (Calgary) from 1999-2000. She intends on attending Columbia University to attain a Ph.D.

**W. Bernie Kelly, QC  
Memorial Prize**

Krista Lynn Hughes of the University of Calgary received the W. Bernie Kelly, QC Memorial Prize. The prize is awarded annually to law students in honour of the Society's former secretary, W. Bernie Kelly, QC.

| <b>ACTIVE MEMBERS BREAKDOWN</b>  |                           |                    |                    |                    |             |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                                  |                           |                    | <b>Male</b>        | <b>Female</b>      |             |
| <b>With firms</b>                | Calgary                   | 2111               | 1582               | 529                |             |
|                                  | Edmonton                  | 1410               | 1041               | 369                |             |
|                                  | Lethbridge                | 94                 | 76                 | 18                 |             |
|                                  | Red Deer                  | 83                 | 66                 | 17                 |             |
|                                  | Medicine Hat              | 40                 | 35                 | 5                  |             |
|                                  | Grande Prairie            | 28                 | 24                 | 4                  |             |
|                                  | Other                     | 285                | 223                | 62                 |             |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>              | <b><u>4051</u></b> | <b><u>3047</u></b> | <b><u>1004</u></b> |             |
|                                  | <b>Sole Practitioners</b> | Calgary            | 481                | 324                | 157         |
|                                  |                           | Edmonton           | 325                | 250                | 75          |
| Lethbridge                       |                           | 15                 | 13                 | 2                  |             |
| Red Deer                         |                           | 20                 | 17                 | 3                  |             |
| Medicine Hat                     |                           | 14                 | 13                 | 1                  |             |
| Grande Prairie                   |                           | 5                  | 4                  | 1                  |             |
| Other                            |                           | 155                | 120                | 35                 |             |
| <b>Total</b>                     |                           | <b><u>1017</u></b> | <b><u>741</u></b>  | <b><u>274</u></b>  |             |
| <b>Corporate &amp; Companies</b> | Calgary                   | 545                | 332                | 213                |             |
|                                  | Edmonton                  | 124                | 78                 | 46                 |             |
|                                  | Lethbridge                | 4                  | 2                  | 2                  |             |
|                                  | Red Deer                  | 6                  | 4                  | 2                  |             |
|                                  | Medicine Hat              | 1                  | 1                  | 0                  |             |
|                                  | Grande Prairie            | 1                  | 0                  | 1                  |             |
|                                  | Other                     | 28                 | 18                 | 10                 |             |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>              | <b><u>709</u></b>  | <b><u>433</u></b>  | <b><u>274</u></b>  |             |
| <b>Government</b>                | Calgary                   | 187                | 83                 | 104                |             |
|                                  | Edmonton                  | 442                | 221                | 221                |             |
|                                  | Lethbridge                | 13                 | 10                 | 3                  |             |
|                                  | Red Deer                  | 8                  | 8                  | 0                  |             |
|                                  | Medicine Hat              | 8                  | 6                  | 2                  |             |
|                                  | Grande Prairie            | 4                  | 3                  | 1                  |             |
|                                  | Other                     | 33                 | 25                 | 8                  |             |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>              | <b><u>695</u></b>  | <b><u>356</u></b>  | <b><u>339</u></b>  |             |
| <b>With a sole practitioner</b>  | Calgary                   | 2                  | 1                  | 1                  |             |
|                                  | Edmonton                  | 5                  | 2                  | 3                  |             |
|                                  | Other                     | 4                  | 2                  | 2                  |             |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>              | <b><u>11</u></b>   | <b><u>5</u></b>    | <b><u>6</u></b>    |             |
| <b>Outside of Alberta</b>        | <b>Total</b>              | <b><u>377</u></b>  | <b><u>291</u></b>  | <b><u>86</u></b>   |             |
|                                  | <b>Active members</b>     | <b>Total</b>       | <b>7001</b>        | <b>4984</b>        | <b>2017</b> |

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# BENCHERS AND OFFICERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA, 2001



*Back Row:* Everett Bunnell, Anthony Friend, Norman Picard, John Bascom, Jim Peacock, Bryan Mahoney, Paul McLaughlin, Charles Gardner, Morris Taylor, Lewis Klar, Mike Wylie, Peter Lown, Rhonda Ruston, Alain Hepner

*Middle Row:* Juliana Topolniski, Doug McGillivray, Mona Duckett, Yvonne Stanford, Hugh Sommerville

*Front Row:* Allison MacKenzie, Jean McBean, Cheryl Gottselig, Simon Renouf, Eric Macklin, Peter Freeman, Ken Nielsen, Don Thompson, Barbara Cooper, Wilfred Willier, Larry Anderson

*Missing:* W. Paul Sharek

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Eric Macklin, QC, President

The year 2001/2002 was extremely busy for the Society. We faced many challenges and achieved many successes.

## **Restructuring the Executive Committee**

To further ensure the transparency of our processes and to increase its efficiency and general effectiveness, the Benchers decided to restructure the Executive Committee by reducing its size and including the President, President-Elect, chairs of Finance, Conduct and Credentials and Education committees, and one lay bencher.

The new structure for the Executive Committee was implemented at the February 2002 convocation.

## **Lay Benchers**

The Society has been extremely well-served by its lay benchers. In order to ensure that our processes are transparent and that the public is both aware of our mandate of protecting the public and satisfied that we are fulfilling our mandate, we have made our best efforts to include at least one lay bencher on all panels hearing disciplinary matters and Assurance Fund claims. As the workload already carried by our three lay benchers is substantial, the Benchers requested the appointment of a fourth lay bencher. Accordingly, and at our request, the *Legal Profession Act* was amended to allow for the appointment of a fourth lay Bencher. The appointment is expected in early 2002.

## **Bursary for Indigenous Students in Law**

In honour of Peter Freeman, QC and his many contributions to the legal profession in Alberta and his lifelong dedication to legal education, the Law Society of Alberta established the Peter Freeman, QC Bursary for

Indigenous Students in Law. The bursary is an endowment that will fund an annual award to an indigenous student based on academic standing and financial need. The bursary will be awarded for students at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, which have confirmed they will match whatever funds are contributed to their respective institution. The Law Foundation will also provide additional matching funds.

## **Mobility in Western Canada**

The four law societies in Western Canada reached a new protocol agreement on mobility. The new protocol allows for lawyers in any one province in Western Canada to practise for up to six months in any twelve month period in any of the other three provinces. The necessary rules to implement the '6 in 12' system were passed by all four western law societies in June 2001 and the protocol is now in place.

## **Mobility Across Canada**

As a result of the initiative from the four western law societies in developing a '6 in 12' system, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada established a Mobility Task Force whose mandate is to recommend the necessary steps for the law societies and the Federation to achieve full mobility throughout Canada. The western law societies are represented on the task force by Don Thompson and I. While there is still considerable work to be done in finalizing a framework for mobility across Canada, there has been general consensus that there should be permanent mobility, in which a lawyer can move from one common law jurisdiction to another without having to take transfer examinations. We anticipate that the mobility



protocol will include Quebec, although its civil law traditions and different regulatory environment will likely result in somewhat different arrangements.

## **Money Laundering Legislation**

On November 8, 2001, the first set of regulations under the new *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) Act* were proclaimed in force. Onerous new reporting requirements were imposed on lawyers when conducting activities for clients such as the receipt or payment of funds (other than those paid in respect of professional services), the purchase or sale of securities, real properties or business assets or entities and the transfer of any funds or securities by any means. While the Act protects communications subject to solicitor/client privilege, there is no protection with respect to the confidentiality of solicitor/client communications.

With the support of the Society, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada has challenged the legislation and has sought and obtained interlocutory orders in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Ontario, exempting lawyers from the money laundering reporting requirements. A variation on the order was issued in Alberta where lawyers are exempted from reporting to the federal government but must forward their reports in sealed envelopes to the Society for storage. Documents are not to be forwarded to the federal agency (FINTRAC) and are not subject to a search warrant unless ordered by the court.

### **Virtual Library**

The Society has provided its financial support to the creation of a virtual law library, an initiative of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. The goal of the project is to create a site that would provide access to primary source materials, including cases and legislation, for every lawyer in Canada. The virtual library ([www.canlii.org](http://www.canlii.org)) is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at no user cost to lawyers or the public. The practical result is that a lawyer in Peace River has the same access to all primary legal materials as a lawyer in any other jurisdiction or any other firm in Canada.

### **Unified Family Court**

The final report of the Unified Family Court Task Force was circulated and provided 17 recommendations for the delivery of legal services to family law litigants. The Society has expressed general support for the establishment of a unified family court, conditional upon adoption of certain recommendations, particularly with respect to ensuring that the necessary resources are provided by the provincial and federal governments. The Society also supported the position that the reform of family law should be pursued vigorously in response to the shortcomings in current family law legislation as it is time to modernize, rationalize and consolidate Alberta family law.

### **Calgary Court House**

It has been heartening over the past year to see the level of support growing for the building of a new consolidated and integrated complex to accommodate all of the courts in Calgary. That level of support should continue to grow as the current facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of all Albertans. Over the course of the past year, the

Court of Appeal, the bar and the public were impacted by the cancellations of fall sittings and the closure of the Court of Appeal building in Calgary. The court and the government were able to work together towards a compromised resolution which has resulted in temporary facilities being leased for the Alberta Court of Appeal in late spring 2002.

### **Meet the Chiefs**

Chief Justice Wachowich and Associate Chief Justice Sulatycky began a tour across the province to introduce themselves to the bar, the media and the public. We were honoured to be invited to join the tour along with Chief Justice Fraser and Chief Judge Walter. During the course of the year, we visited members in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Wetaskiwin, Camrose, Grande Prairie, Peace River and Fort McMurray. Visits to the other judicial districts are also planned for the near future.

### **General**

Our relationship with the government and the different levels of court in Alberta is strong. I want to take this opportunity to thank Chief Justice Fraser, Chief Justice Wachowich, Associate Chief Justice Sulatycky, Chief Judge Walter and Minister of Justice and Attorney General Dave Hancock for their continued and unwavering support of the Society.

I want to express my gratitude to all of the Benchers who, regardless of their background, have always put the interests of the public and the profession as a whole at the forefront of their deliberations. Their incredible contributions of time and effort, together with that of our committee members and other volunteers, have allowed us to always act in the public interest and retain our right to self-govern.

The leadership, management skills and dedication of Don Thompson, our Executive Director, and Peter Freeman, QC, who retired as Executive Director on June 30, 2001, have been exceptional and invaluable. I want to thank both of them and the staff of the Society for all the advice and direction they have provided to the Benchers and I throughout the time we have all worked together.

# THE LAY BENCHERS

## APPOINTED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Appointed by the Minister of Justice for a two-year-term, lay benchers safeguard the public interest and ensure that the views of the public are considered. Being a lay bencher requires active participation in the many duties of the Society, including participation on conduct hearings, assurance fund claims, conduct panels and convocations as well as membership in a large variety of the Society's standing committees.

**Yvonne Stanford** was appointed as lay bencher in January 2000 and reappointed in 2002. Ms Stanford's many professional and community activities have included director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Calgary; program director of the YWCA, Calgary; accountant and internal auditor, Dome Petroleum; president of the board, Women's Centre of Calgary; Alberta representative to the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; and working membership with community organizations such as the Calgary Coalition for Equal Access to

Education, the Committee on Race Relations, and the Dignity Foundation. During 2001 Ms Stanford served on the finance, communications, appeal, practice review, audit and gender, equity and equality committees.



MTR Consultants Ltd. in Edmonton. This firm specializes in thoroughbred and harness racing in Canada and the United States, providing expert

Appointed as a lay bencher in January 1998, and reappointed in 2000 and 2002 to a third two-year term, **Morris Taylor** is the president of

assistance to the profession through the Philadelphia Company, Technical Advisory Service for Attorneys. Mr. Taylor served as a member of the appeal, communications, conduct and finance committees and professional responsibility committees during 2001.

Retired High Prairie probation officer and active community volunteer, lay bencher **Wilfred**



**Willier** worked for Alberta Justice and the Solicitor General for 30 years. First appointed as a lay bencher in 1998, Mr. Willier was reappointed in 2000 and 2002 to a third two year term. Mr. Willier was a member of the conduct, appeal, criminal practice, practice review, unauthorized practice and gender, equity and equality committees.

## MESSAGE FROM THE LAY BENCHERS

*by Yvonne Stanford, Morris Taylor, and Wilfred Willier*

It is our pleasure to report on our experience as lay benchers during 2001.

Since lay benchers are government appointees, one might think the position would be honorary with little input, but nothing could be further from the truth. From the day of our appointment, each of us has become involved with the innermost workings of the Society, serving on

committees, attending meetings and contributing our voices to the decision making process.

Each bencher, whether appointed or elected, must review their background and decide which areas of the Society could best gain from their expertise and experience. Lay benchers sit on many of the Society committees including conduct, appeals, finance, professional responsibility and communications. In addition, under Alberta law, lay benchers are required to sit on

complaint appeal panels, which includes appeals from a lawyer or a member of the public contesting a ruling. As lay benchers, we bring the non lawyer perspective to the process, which ultimately allows us to offer insights into the view of matters from a public perspective.

In our experience the Society continually strives for openness in its hearings and processes. We continue to be impressed with the dedication and commitment of the benchers.



# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

by *Morris Taylor, chair*

The Communications Committee is charged with the responsibility of prompting the flow of information to the general public and members of the Society.

I am pleased to report on the work of the committee in 2001.

## **Media and the Law Seminar**

After many months of planning, the seminar was held at the Calgary court house on October 27. The basic concept of this event was to bring together representatives of the media (print, radio and television) along with lawyers and members of the judiciary. The hope being that in an atmosphere of personal contact, along with interesting panels and innovative interaction, the various groups would gain a better understanding of each others' roles.

Over 100 people attended the seminar and the written and verbal feedback received was very positive. As important as the strong support proved to be, the constructive criticisms as to style and length of panel discussions will be equally valuable. Should plans go ahead for a similar

seminar to be offered in Edmonton either in late 2002 or spring 2003, these suggestions will help in streamlining the presentations.

## **Law Society of Alberta Website**

The website continues to offer both the public and lawyers a vast array of useful data ranging from general information on how to find a lawyer to listing citations against a member.

The website remains an item in constant change and to remain meaningful requires continuous staff input from all departments of the Society.

## **Law Society of Alberta Logo**

Responding to queries from members, a sub-committee was formed to investigate the use of the Law Society of Alberta logo on letterheads, business cards and other printed materials as well as website links used by lawyers and their firms. This report is at the preliminary stage and will be formally submitted to the Executive Committee early in 2002.

## **Committee Members**

*Morris Taylor (C)*  
*Larry G. Anderson (VC)*  
*Norman Picard*  
*Yvonne A. Stanford*  
*C. (Kate) E. Wood*  
*Brian J. Evans*  
*Michelle Somers*  
*Bryan E. Mahoney, CBA*

*Don Thompson, LSA*  
*Allison MacKenzie, LSA*

# CIVIL PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

by *Juliana E. Topolniski, QC, chair*

The Civil Practice Advisory Committee has had another very productive year.

The projects the committee worked on this year included providing input to the Alberta Law Reform Institute concerning the Rules of Court Re-Write Project; conferring with the Provincial Court of Alberta, Civil Claims Division about proposed monetary limit increases; discussing technology initiatives in and proposed by the courts; considering court-annexed mediation; and providing input on civil jury thresholds.

Representatives of the committee again attended meetings with the Court of Queen's Bench to discuss issues of

mutual interest and concern to the court and the profession.

The committee's work throughout the year has again provided valuable input for projects designed to enhance accessibility to the courts and improve the administration of justice.

The Benchers have now established a committee composed of representatives from the civil, family and criminal practice advisory committees to track and provide input on technology initiatives in the courts. This committee will report back, and seek input from the Civil Practice Advisory Committee as its work progresses.



## **Committee Members**

*Juliana E. Topolniski (C)*  
*James S. Peacock (VC)*  
*Richard J. N. Gilborn*  
*John D. Holmes*  
*Havelock Madill*  
*Peter Michalyshyn*  
*John A. Middleton*  
*Gordon W. Sharek*  
*Vivian R. Stevenson*  
*Diana J. Lowe*  
*Everett L. Bunnell*  
*Mr. Justice Paul Belzil*

*Peter Freeman, LSA*  
*Don Thompson, LSA*  
*Lindsay MacDonald, LSA*

# CRIMINAL PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

by *Larry G. Anderson, QC, chair*

The Criminal Practice Advisory Committee dealt with the many issues that were carried over from the previous year. The search warrant sub-committee continued to work toward a protocol to govern the search of lawyers' offices. Total consensus was not achieved, however, it was decided to put the issue on hold pending a Supreme Court of Canada decision which is expected to impact heavily on the subject.

The committee participated in a visioning symposium hosted by the Department of Justice on the future of policing in the province. The opportunity to participate in this process was appreciated as it allowed the voice of the legal profession to be heard in the formulation of future policing policy direction.

The committee dealt with a number of other issues of interest to the criminal bar, including the court-initiated changes to the bail review procedures in the Court of Queen's Bench. The committee was philosophically supportive of the initiative and will continue to monitor the new procedures to see how their implementation impacts on persons denied release at the first instance. The committee provided input regarding lawyers providing interviews to the press about ongoing cases and the Code of Conduct subcommittee is examining this issue.

The chair would like to thank the committee and Society staff for their assistance this past year. If any criminal law practitioners have issues that you feel this committee may be able to assist with, please bring them forward.



## **Committee Members**

*Larry G. Anderson (C)*  
*Simon Renouf (VC)*  
*Wilfred Willier*  
*Gwilym Davies*  
*E. (Beth) A. Hughes*  
*R. Bruce Hartridge*  
*Cathy G. Lane*  
*Barry McLaren*  
*Kenneth McLeod*  
*Andre Ouellette*  
*Laura Stevens*

*Lindsay MacDonald, LSA*  
*Jennifer Rothery, LSA*



# CONDUCT COMMITTEE

*by Everett L. Bunnell, QC, chair*

It was a very busy year for the Conduct Committee. Activities consisted of not only the regular meetings of the committee, but also those meetings related to citations of misconduct alleged against members of the Society. A statistical analysis of the business of this committee in terms of hearings indicates an improvement in the number of hearings conducted. This is a situation likely attributable to the pre-hearing conference process which has been in operation for the past year. This process eliminated much of the backlog. At the end of the year, there were only 37 outstanding hearings, many of which relate to members who cannot be located.

The pre-hearing conference process is a form of case management conducted by either the chair or vice-chair on dates established throughout the year. At those times, counsel involved in the various hearings needing management appear, either in person or by telephone, in order to discuss the scheduling and duration of hearings. This process addresses issues regarding disclosure of materials by counsel for the Society and any other issues needing decision or organization.

During the past year, a review was carried out of the correspondence generally used in communications with members of the public involved in the submissions of complaints regarding lawyers. Concerns had been expressed that such materials lacked clarity, were convoluted in their expression or generally unfriendly in tone. The lay benchers supplied valuable input and it was determined that the existing materials were appropriate.

The mediation facilities dealing with complaints by clients and others concerning members of the Society continues to be very successful.

The website of the Society now contains

information regarding citations against members. Efforts are being made to ensure that any reductions in the citations outstanding are reflected in this information on the website. As well, the disposition of citations is being noted for a period of time. The commitment remains one of enabling the public access to this information on an accurate and timely basis. This information has also been expanded to include indications not only where members have been immediately suspended under what is now Section 63 of the *Legal Profession Act*, but also situations where members have been allowed to remain actively practising on certain conditions, until matters have been investigated or citations dealt with. An open safeguarding of the public's interest is paramount in such situations.

In closing, much appreciation is to be extended to those lawyers who have been volunteer members of this committee and whose names are noted in the margin of this report. The donation of their skills and time together with the hardworking talents of the staff, enable the continued performance of the very valuable functions of this committee. Thank you again for your contributions.

## **Committee Members**

*Everett L. Bunnell (C)*  
*Larry G. Anderson (VC)*  
*John D. Bascom*  
*Charles D. Gardner*  
*Douglas E. McGillivray*  
*James S. Peacock*  
*Simon Renouf*  
*Hugh D. Sommerville*  
*Morris Taylor*  
*Wilfred Willier*  
*Glenda A. Campbell*  
*Mae L. Chow*  
*Richard J. O'Gorman*  
*John D. Phillips*  
*Richard W. Rand*  
*Baljindar K. Rattan*  
*Wendy C. Rollins*  
*Sabri M. Shawa*

*Lindsay MacDonald, LSA*  
*James D. McLeod, LSA*  
*Irene MacEachern, LSA*  
*Darlene Hutchinson, LSA*

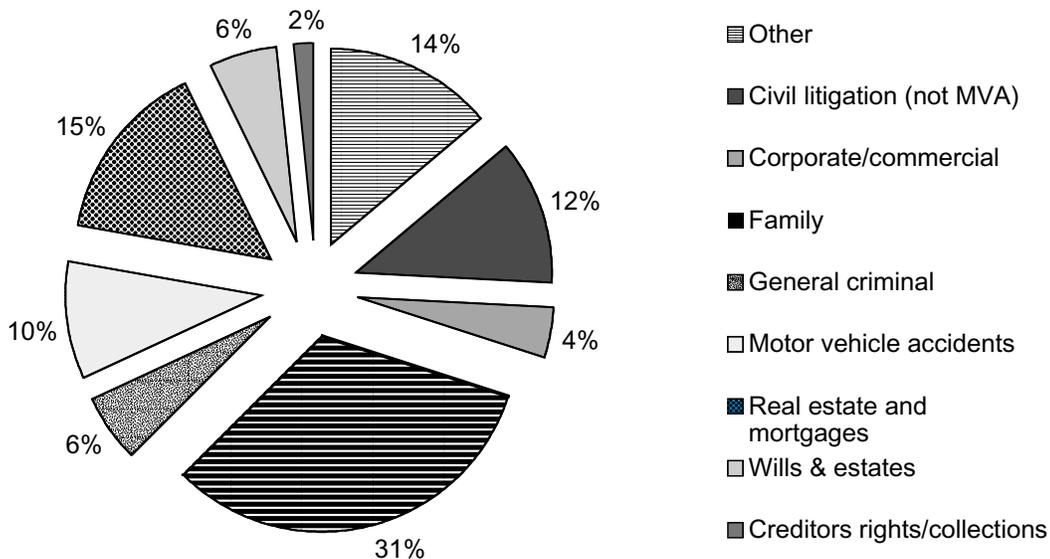
## Comparative Conduct Department Statistics for 2001 and 2000

| Process   | 2001 | 2000 |
|---|------|------|
| Complaints and enquiries received <sup>1</sup>            | 3360 | 3811 |
| Opened as formal complaints (S.51 LPA)                    | 114  | 132  |
| Public complaints   | 40   | 46   |
| Lawyer complaints   | 22   | 34   |
| LSA generated complaints                                  | 52   | 52   |
| <b>Disposition of formal complaints by administration</b> |      |      |
| Dismissed   | 42   | 59   |
| Directed to investigation by deputy secretary             | 26   | 13   |
| Referred to conduct committee panel for further review    | 86   | 92   |
| <b>Disposition of Conduct Committee Panels</b>            |      |      |
| Directed to investigation                                 | 1    | 0    |
| Directed to mandatory conduct advisory <sup>2</sup>       | 17   | 30   |
| Directed to Practice Review Committee                     | 7    | 19   |
| Directed to hearing                                       | 35   | 40   |

<sup>1</sup> Initially dealt with by complaints resolution officers (lawyers)

<sup>2</sup> A mandatory conduct advisory (MCA) is a meeting between a benchler and the lawyer to deal with deficiencies in lawyer's conduct which does not constitute conduct deserving of sanction. A successful MCA results in dismissal of the complaint.

## 2001 Complaints and Enquiries by Area of Practice



Other includes administrative law, bankruptcy, builders liens, civil liberties, condominium litigation, driving and traffic offences, immigration, insurance, intellectual property, young offenders, labour and employment, landlord and tenant, professional malpractice, oil, gas and mining, securities, taxation, wrongful dismissal, Dependent Adult Act/ EPA, foreclosures, workers compensation, miscellaneous and not specified.



# CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

by Charles D. Gardner, QC, chair

## **Committee Members**

Charles D. Gardner (C)  
David J. Stratton (VC)  
Clarke D. Barnes  
Scott Bodie  
Andrew J. Hladyshesky  
H. Martin Kay  
Denise Dunn McMullen  
Bogumil F. Romanko  
Monica Sharma  
Dale R. Spackman  
Michael Whitt

Don Thompson, LSA

## **Electronic Commerce subcommittee**

Dale R. Spackman (C)  
Cheryl Gottselig  
Tudor Beattie  
Geoffrey Ho  
Michael Whitt

Don Thompson, LSA  
Paul McLaughlin, LSA

An important part of the committee's work throughout the year was to assist the Society in ensuring that our members were kept well informed of new issues. In this regard, the committee made use of the Society's website to inform lawyers working in the tax field of recent amendments to the *Income Tax Act* imposing third party penalties which affect lawyers as tax advisors and tax return preparers. The committee also sent out a warning concerning potential pitfalls for lawyers who are asked by their client's accountants to sign confidentiality agreements with respect to tax planning schemes being proposed by those accountants. Much work was also done by the committee to inform the profession about our new reporting obligations under the federal government's changes to the money laundering legislation. The committee has been involved in monitoring the court challenges to that legislation.

Through the Electronic Commerce subcommittee we have also been active in a number of initiatives. The committee conducted an extensive review of the new *Electronic Transaction Act* when it was a bill and submitted a brief report to the provincial government. The committee continued discussions from last year concerning the Society and other law societies becoming involved in an initiative which would allow us to provide electronic credentialing or certification of our members. While a demand for such a service would not appear to be high at the

present time the committee will continue to monitor this, keeping in mind that as the use of electronic communication and transactions escalate, the need for electronic credentialing will grow with it.

The committee has also been working actively in the area of corporate legislative reform. A position paper was submitted to the provincial government urging that it consider legislation allowing for the incorporation of Unlimited Liability Corporations in Alberta. In addition, the committee commenced a consultation process with corporate practitioners to assist us in preparing a position paper, which will be submitted to the provincial government this spring, suggesting a number of amendments which the committee feels are needed to modernize the *Business Corporations Act*. It has been some twenty years since the Act was introduced and it is the feeling of the committee that it is time for significant updating. Our involvement in this area will occupy a significant amount of the committee's time in the coming year.

# CREDENTIALS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

by *Juliana E. Topolniski, QC, vice-chair*

It was a very busy and exciting year for the Credentials and Education Committee. The delegation of a number of routine applications to the Executive Director has allowed the committee to focus more attention on matters of policy and procedure. In that regard, the committee has recommended Rule changes that will improve the delivery and administration of credentials and education matters.

The rule changes passed by the Benchers on the committee's recommendation included revised guidelines for hearing appeals of failed examinations and assessments, and permitting bar admission students, transfer and reinstatement candidates to review failed examinations. These rule changes will benefit students, transfer and reinstatement candidates alike. The process for appeals is now a more transparent and defined one, and these changes will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

A subcommittee has been working on revised guidelines specific to credentials and education reinstatement applications to better clarify underlying policy considerations and procedural matters. In addition, the subcommittee is working on a proposal for refining the manner in which reinstatement applications will be dealt with.

Last summer, town hall meetings were held in Edmonton and Calgary to obtain feedback about the student recruitment rules. The feedback received was generally positive, but it is apparent that the recruitment rules should be regularly reviewed, clarified and updated to meet the needs of both students and employers. A subcommittee is presently reviewing the recruitment rules for that purpose.

As a result of amendments to the *Legal Profession Act*, the statutory requirement to article for one continuous year has now been delegated to the Benchers with authority to specify articling requirements. The Benchers have approved a rule permitting articles to be served for a continuous period of at least one year or, with the approval of the Credentials and Education Committee, for periods totalling at least one year. The committee is currently examining the requirement for continuous articles as well as a question of credit that should be given for articles served out of the province.

Many thanks to the entire committee and congratulations to Justice Bryan Mahoney who ably chaired this committee prior to his appointment to the Court of Queen's Bench on November 15, 2001.



## **Committee Members**

*Bryan E. Mahoney (C)*  
*Juliana E. Topolniski (VC)*  
*Larry Anderson*  
*John D. Bascom*  
*Mona Duckett*  
*Alain Hepner*  
*Jean M. McBean*  
*James S. Peacock*  
*Hugh D. Sommerville*  
*Anne J. Brown*  
*Michelle G. Crighton*  
*Sean E. D. Fairhurst*  
*Frederica L. Schutz*  
*Dean Michael Wylie, U of C*  
*Dean Lewis Klar, U of A*  
*Hugh A. Robertson, LESA*

*Don Thompson, LSA*  
*Liz Soper, LSA*  
*Brenda Gesinghaus, LSA*



# FINANCE COMMITTEE

by Cheryl C. Gottselig, QC, chair

## Committee Members

Cheryl C. Gottselig (C)  
 Larry G. Anderson (VC)  
 Mona T. Duckett  
 Jean M. McBean  
 Norman Picard  
 Juliana E. Topolniski  
 Yvonne A. Stanford  
 Morris Taylor  
 John T. Henderson  
 Lindsay J. Holmes  
 Lawrence A. Johnson  
 William J. Kenny  
 Walter K. Mis

Don Thompson, LSA  
 Steve Dyer, LSA  
 Peggy Stevenson, LSA  
 Brenda Whitby, LSA

## Audit subcommittee

Simon Renouf (C)  
 Anthony L. Friend  
 Yvonne A. Stanford  
 James S. Steel  
 Robert V. T. Boydon  
 Raylene Palichuk  
 Dale Spackman

Don Thompson, LSA  
 Peggy Stevenson, LSA  
 Brenda Whitby, LSA

The responsibility of the Finance Committee is to oversee the financial affairs of the Society and to adjudicate claims that arise against the Assurance Fund. The Audit subcommittee reviews the draft budgets, as prepared by the Society staff, of the General Fund, the Assurance Fund and the Viscount Bennett Fund and makes recommendations to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee, based on a review of these budgets and advice from the Audit subcommittee, makes recommendations to the Benchers for the annual fee and the Assurance Fund levy to be paid by the members for the upcoming year.

## Annual Fee

To have a balanced budget in the general fund, the 2002 annual fee was set at \$925 (a \$35 increase). A rate of inflation increase of 2.9 percent and significant new expenditures to CANLII-The Federation of Law Societies of Canada virtual law library (\$16,600), the National Mobility Project (\$15,700), increase to Legal Archives Society of Alberta Grant (\$10,000) and the Joint Library inflation increase (\$15,000) necessitated this increase. In 1998, the Benchers resolved to provide in each year's budget a surplus of \$50,000 to permit an accumulated surplus of \$500,000. Due to the amount in the current general fund, the benchers resolved that there was no need to make this \$50,000 contribution in 2002.

## Assurance Fund Levy

The Assurance Fund levy for 2002 was set at \$150, an increase of \$50 per member. The levy was reached after consultation with the Society actuaries, Dion Durrell and the investment advisor, Mawer Investment Management.

At the October 2001 convocation, the Benchers resolved to increase the indemnity bond from \$2 million to \$10 million. It was determined that with the new bond level the assurance fund should be maintained at approximately \$4 million. To do this, and to provide administrative services, it was necessary to implement the \$54 increase in the Assurance Fund levy.

## Summary

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| annual fee, active member | \$925.00   |
| Assurance Fund levy       | + 150.00   |
| Total                     | \$1,075.00 |

## Miscellaneous Matters

The format was changed when preparing the 2002 budget. In conjunction with the new management and accounting system, this new format will allow for a more sophisticated level of analysis and reporting. The major change is the reporting of expenses to individual cost centres (departments of the Society) or to corporate costs (rent, depreciation, etc.).

There were significant staff changes in the finance department of the Society. Peggy Stevenson commenced as our Controller in September 2001 and at the October convocation Steven Dyer was appointed by the Benchers to the office of Treasurer and CFO of the Society.

I would like to thank the staff and all of the committee members for their significant contributions over the last year.

# GENDER, EQUALITY AND EQUITY COMMITTEE

by *Mona T. Duckett, QC, chair*

The mandate of the Gender, Equality and Equity Committee is to assist the profession in identifying and responding to issues of diversity, equity and equality. The following are highlights of the committee's work in 2001.

In September of 2000, the Benchers passed a motion supporting increased diversity on the Society committees in an effort to enhance the participation of women, lawyers with disabilities, First Nations lawyers and those from a variety of other racial backgrounds. This year's committee considered ways to assist the Society in meeting its diversity objective. We will continue to strive for greater participation by a diverse group of members, particularly those who sometimes find themselves subject to discrimination, by reason of race, disability, sexual orientation and gender.

## **Reduced Insurance Fees for Part Time Practitioners**

A subcommittee with representation from the insurance, practice review, finance and gender, equality and equity committees met to consider this issue which arose as a result of inquiries from members and recommendations from certain equality reports. The subcommittee considered the experiences of the Ontario and British Columbia law societies with a part time insurance program and the advice of the Law Society of Manitoba, which declined to implement such a program. The committee concluded that the cost of such a program in Alberta would be an increase in insurance premiums for full time practitioners including sole practitioners, and those doing substantial pro bono and legal aid work. At the same time, the committee was not satisfied that the program would result in continued membership by those who are leaving the profession due to child care obligations, one of the major reasons such programs have been encouraged. As

a result, the committee found that a part time insurance levy was not currently equitably justifiable.

## **Parental Leave Guidelines and Model Policy**

With the generous assistance of JoAnn Kolmes and Brent Gawne, our guidelines for parental and maternity leave have been updated and posted on the website, along with a sample model policy.

## **Ongoing Projects**

The Strategic Planning subcommittee is prioritizing projects for the committee, including followup on recommendations from various equity reports that have been done in the last number of years by various bar associations. Laura Dunham, one of the Society's summer students, prepared a comprehensive concordance of those recommendations for the committee's assistance. Other issues under consideration by the committee include an updated survey of our members and an examination of the QC appointment process in an effort to ensure equitable recognition of deserving women and lawyers from diverse racial backgrounds.

On behalf of all our members and the public we serve, I extend my thanks to this year's committee members. Each issue on our agenda was approached with considerable thought, careful debate and consensus was reached due to their cumulative good judgment. I also am grateful to Susan Billington and Laura Dunham for their very valuable contributions to the committee this year.



## **Committee Members**

*Mona T. Duckett (C)*  
*Jean M. McBean (VC)*  
*Douglas A. McGillivray*  
*W. Paul Sharek*  
*Yvonne A. Stanford*  
*Wilfred Willier*  
*Adel Abougoush*  
*Judy D. Daniels*  
*Geoff Ho*  
*Martin S. Kaga*  
*Anne Kirker*  
*Sandra Mah*  
*Sheilah Martin, U of C*  
*Gerry Gall, U of A*  
*M. E. A (Beth) Miller, CBA*  
*Jeanne Byron, Ombudsperson*

*Don Thompson, LSA*  
*Susan Billington, LSA*



# INSURANCE COMMITTEE

by Anthony Friend, QC, chair

The Alberta Lawyers Insurance Association (ALIA), the liability insurance program for Alberta lawyers, remains strong and has completed another successful year of operation.

## Insurance Levy (July 2001 – 2002)

The independent actuaries have projected a cost of \$3,082 for each insured member for the July 2001–2002 insurance year. As has been the case in previous years, a surplus distribution from the ALIA insurance fund permitted a reduction in the base levy to our members. The surplus distribution, together with a credit from our insurers, the Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association (CLIA), enabled the Benchers to set the July 2001 base net levy at \$2,397. However, the reduction in the levy that the Benchers have been able to achieve in recent years as a result of distributed surplus credits will not be available to Alberta lawyers next year.

As already advised to the profession, CLIA has changed the manner in which surplus credits are distributed to CLIA's participating law society insurance programs. In past years, surplus credits have been distributed equally to insured lawyers in all participating jurisdictions. Beginning in 2002, the distribution of the surplus will reflect the claims experience of each program. Distributing surplus credits in this fashion is more equitable and has been approved by ALIA. However, due to high activity levels and poor claims experience in Alberta, our members will not receive significant CLIA surplus credits for the July 2002 renewal. As a result, members can expect their levy for 2002–2003 to increase. Nevertheless, our insurance program remains strong. Reports of new claims, after showing increases for the past three years, have leveled off in the current year.

## Coverage Changes

Pursuant to changes to the provisions of the *Income Tax Act*, professional advisors can be made liable for a penalty in connec-

tion with tax advice provided to clients. Our insurance program now provides coverage for the cost of a successful defence of prosecutions against professional advisors under these new *Income Tax Act* provisions.

The terms of the program's coverage have been clarified to confirm that there is no coverage provided for losses arising from computer viruses and related damage. Finally, the program has removed exclusions with respect to the practice of foreign law, except if the member has been acting as a member of a foreign bar or working in a foreign law office.

## ALIA Claims Investigators

In the past, ALIA has utilized independent adjusting firms to investigate and settle certain claims, particularly, claims arising from missed limitations in personal injury cases. ALIA has hired Georges-Andre Tambay and Nancy Stenson in Calgary and Edmonton respectively as claims investigators. As a result ALIA will no longer be required to retain outside adjusting firms to deal with these claims.

## Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice

The Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice, a project of the Edmonton Social Planning Counsel, will open a legal clinic in Edmonton in 2002. As is the case for volunteers at Calgary Legal Guidance and at the Volunteer Lawyers Service, active members of the Law Society of Alberta who are otherwise exempt from the insurance program will be insured at no charge for their pro bono service provided to the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice.

## Satisfaction Survey

A recent survey demonstrated a high satisfaction for those dealing with ALIA. The continuing success and strength of ALIA is a result of the great ability and effort of Sarah Brickett, Director of Insurance, and all of the ALIA staff, whose outstanding performance is acknowledged and recognized.

### Committee Members

Anthony L. Friend (C)  
Alain Hepner (VC)  
Cheryl C. Gottselig  
Douglas A. McGillivray  
Yvonne A. Stanford  
Sandra L. Corbett  
John D. Holmes  
Walter Kubitz  
Robert D. Maxwell  
Bradley G. Nemetz  
David R. Syme  
Kenneth J. Warren  
Phyllis A. L. Smith, CLIA Chair  
Kenneth G. Nielsen, CLIA

Sarah Brickett, ALIA  
Margaret Bayerle, ALIA  
Colleen Beatty, ALIA  
Trevor Bozzer, ALIA  
Jackie Hickey, ALIA  
Bill Little, ALIA  
Georges Tambay, ALIA

# JOINT LIBRARY COMMITTEE

by Jean M. McBean, QC, chair

The Law Society Libraries is a network of ten libraries located in courthouses around the province. The Joint Library Committee, which is composed of representatives of the Society and the government, provides formal guidance to the Law Society Libraries on such issues as governance and policy setting. The operation of the libraries is under the leadership of Mona Pearce, Senior Manager.

During the last year, the full membership of the committee met on only one occasion as a full committee and the informal executive of the committee met on several occasions. The committee meeting was called to review the strategic plan, which had been developed by a special committee made up of staff from the libraries. After reviewing the document, the Joint Library Committee endorsed the strategic plan and it was subsequently distributed to key stakeholders. The plan has received much praise from all who have read it.

Another key activity involving the

libraries was the support given by the committee requesting, from the Benchers, a special grant of \$75,000 above the normal annual grant, and the request to the Alberta Law Foundation for a special grant. Both grant requests were to be allocated towards the purchase of computers for the libraries, supporting an integrated library system, which was identified as a critical component for the libraries in the strategic plan.

The Benchers approved a \$75,000 grant from the Society. The committee recognizes, however, that the major part of the necessary funding to purchase the computer equipment (\$500,000) came from a generous special grant for the Alberta Law Foundation. Moreover, Alberta Justice agreed to provide technical support and maintenance for the new computers. The request for proposals from computer equipment vendors was issued in December 2001 and it is anticipated that full implementation of the information technology strategy will be completed by fall 2002.



## Committee Members

Jean M. McBean (C)  
M. Francine Swanson (VC)  
Marian E. Bryant  
Andrea B. Chrenek  
Allan G. Leis  
Rhonda M. Elder  
Mona Pearce, Justice  
Andrzej Nowacki, Justice

Peter Freeman, LSA

# PRO BONO COMMITTEE

by Rhonda Ruston, QC, chair

The Pro Bono Committee's mandate is to investigate ways to acknowledge and encourage a culture of pro bono legal services for those without the means to pay. Over the past several years, the committee has focused its energy on assisting in the establishment of a pro bono legal services clinic in Edmonton similar to that of Calgary Legal Guidance.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council will be opening the doors of the Edmonton Center for Equal Justice on January 8, 2002. The centre is a legal clinic that services the poor who are not entitled to Legal Aid. A lawyer, an assistant and a community liaison fundraiser will staff the centre and volunteer lawyers from the

Edmonton community will operate the clinics in the evenings. The centre currently has 40 lawyers on the roster for legal services and recruitment for volunteers is ongoing.

Much appreciation goes out to many stakeholders in the community that worked together to open the doors of the ECEJ. The Law Society of Alberta provided the Edmonton Social Planning Council with a copy of the Calgary Legal Guidance Start-up Kit, which has proved to be an invaluable resource.

Ongoing initiatives for the committee will focus on recommendations to the Benchers for further pro bono initiatives.



## Committee Members

Rhonda K. Ruston (C)  
Alan D. Fielding  
Mona T. Duckett  
Jean M. McBean  
Alan D. Hunter  
Terry McGregor  
Edward H. Molstad

Susan Billington, LSA



# PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

by *W. Paul Sharek, QC, chair*

In 2001, the Professional Responsibility Committee continued to address members' questions about ethics. These questions include inquiries about the use of credit card programs for clients for legal fees, and prepaid legal service plans. There were also a number of inquiries relating to confidentiality and solicitor-client privilege, conflicts of interest, and multiple representation.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to examining a home closing program, including a presentation from the Canadian Bar Association real property section. The committee reviewed this presentation, which resulted in a report prepared by a panel of the committee. The report was presented to the Benchers at convocation in October and debated by the Benchers in November. The report was also posted on the website of the Society. During the process, the sponsors of the home closing program informed the committee, and later the Benchers, of their intention to make alterations to the program to deal with some of the concerns which had been raised. Accordingly, the Benchers issued a notice to the profession referring members to the panel report, indicating that there was not enough information about the changes. Members were encouraged to consult with the Practice Advisor for any questions about their participation.

An issue of confidentiality agreements was discussed over the course of the year. That matter will be considered in the broader context of the suitability of proprietary claims to legal ideas and legal strategies.

As foreshadowed last year, certain provisions of the *Code of Professional Conduct* were examined in detail by a subcommittee of the Professional Responsibility Committee. That examination resulted

in amendments that were approved by the Benchers at the November 2001 Convocation. A brief summary of the changes is as follows:

(a) The rule with respect to fee splitting was amended to permit division of fees with a lawyer not a firm member who has referred a client, as compensation for the referral, but only if the client is aware and approves and the fee to the client is not thereby increased. This change was designed to encourage lawyers to ensure a client gets the most suitably skilled and experienced lawyer for their affairs.

(b) The commentary with respect to the prohibition against lawyers preparing a will containing a direction that the lawyer be retained as solicitor for the estate was deleted. It was brought to the subcommittee's attention that it is not uncommon for clients to instruct their lawyer as part of their estate plan, to administer the estate, on the basis that the lawyer is familiar with the client's affairs.

(c) The rule regarding disclosure of confidential information was amended so that a lawyer is now entitled to disclose confidential information to another lawyer to secure legal or ethical advice about the lawyer's conduct. The reason for the change was that the previous rule might have been seen to prevent some lawyers from seeking advice on difficult ethical situations.

As always, and by definition, ethical problems posed to the committee are difficult, and in many cases, complex. I would like to thank members of the committee for their participation, good sense and wisdom. I also appreciated the assistance of Jennifer Rothery and Practice Advisors, Barry Vogel, QC and Practice Management Advisor Paul McLaughlin.

## **Committee Members**

*W. Paul Sharek (C)*  
*Douglas A. McGillivray (VC)*  
*Charles D. Gardner*  
*James S. Peacock*  
*Hugh D. Sommerville*  
*Morris Taylor*  
*Tudor Beattie*  
*George E. Bowker*  
*Dennis B. Denis*  
*Ronald J. Everard*  
*H. J. Lyndon Irwin*  
*John M. Law*  
*Corinna Lee*  
*Jennifer L. Madsen*  
*Lois MacLean*  
*Daniel J. McDonald*  
*Blair L. Maxston*  
*Steve Raby*

*Barry Vogel, LSA*  
*Lindsay McDonald, LSA*  
*Paul McLaughlin, LSA*  
*Irene MacEachern, LSA*  
*Jennifer Rothery, LSA*

## **Code subcommittee**

*Charles D. Gardner (C)*  
*Cheryl C. Gottselig*  
*Ronald J. Everard*  
*Alan D. Fielding*  
*Lois Maclean*  
*Bart Rosborough*

*Paul McLaughlin, LSA*  
*Barry Vogel, LSA*  
*Jennifer Rothery, LSA*

# PRACTICE REVIEW COMMITTEE

by Rhonda K. Ruston, QC, chair

The Practice Review Committee's purpose is to identify members encountering difficulties in their law practices and to take proactive steps to assist such members in whatever manner is most appropriate. The committee accepts referrals from any branch of the Society such as conduct, insurance and mediation. Most of the members currently involved in the practice review process are participating on an informal basis.

2001 was a year of streamlining the committee's processes to make the program more effective. The case file load in January 2001, 181 open files, was reduced steadily throughout the year as files were dealt with more efficiently. There are approximately 75 active case files, and it is anticipated that the caseload will remain at this manageable level. The committee met on three occasions throughout the year while panels of three committee members met on 77 occasions. Nineteen of those meetings were conducted by telephone conference call, the remaining 58 were in-person meetings between the panels and members of the profession.

The committee continues to deal with concerns such as practice management, financial issues, health and stress, and isolation. The Society has several resources available to members, including the Practice Advisor, the Practice Management Advisor, LESA programs, trust accounting advice, and interaction with a Practice Review Panel.

The committee is pleased to announce the upcoming implementation of a Peer Support pilot program, which will be offered as a resource to members involved in the Practice Review process. The program will involve matching members with volunteer mentors, who would be

available to assist with questions regarding practice related issues. It is hoped that these partnerships will help members deal with problems in their practice in a proactive way, as well as provide them with a sense of connectedness with their profession. The pilot program is scheduled to run for a trial period of two years, after which an evaluation of its success will be conducted.

The committee has also been working to improve the process for members applying for reinstatement to active practice. Currently, under Rule 118 of the *Rules of the Law Society of Alberta*, applications for reinstatement made under Rule 115 or Rule 116 may be referred to the Practice Review Committee by the Executive Director. As this committee, along with the Credentials and Education Committee and the Conduct Committee, may directly influence a member's ability to practice, guidelines for dealing with these applications have been developed to ensure fairness and due process in every case.

The Practice Review Committee will continue to work to provide members experiencing difficulties in their practices with an avenue for help and support. It has been the committee's experience that most lawyers welcome the assistance and have come away from the process with positive results.

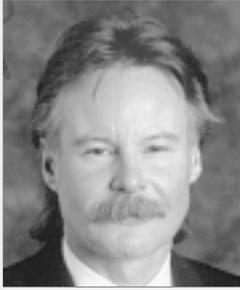
As Chair of Practice Review for the past year, I would like to thank the Committee members for all their hard work with members. By providing an open and supportive environment, the committee has been able to help many members help themselves.



## **Committee Members**

*Rhonda K. Ruston (C)*  
*Mona T. Duckett (VC)*  
*Charles D. Gardner*  
*Anthony L. Friend*  
*Alain Hepner*  
*Jean M. McBean*  
*Douglas A. McGillivray*  
*Norman Picard*  
*Simon Renouf*  
*W. Paul Sharek*  
*Yvonne A. Stanford*  
*Juliana E. Topolniski*  
*Wilfred Willier*  
*Frank Bosscha*  
*Bruce Churchill-Smith*  
*Ronald Dutchak*  
*Bryan R. Ede*  
*Frederick R. Fenwick*  
*Phil G. Lister*  
*Gillian D. Marriott*  
*Karim Mawani*  
*Robert A. Philp*  
*Richard W. Wilson*  
*Anthony G. Young*

*Don Thompson, LSA*  
*Barbara Cooper, LSA*  
*Merry Rogers, LSA*  
*Vicky Blaine, LSA*



## UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW

by John D. Bascom, QC, chair

The Society is responsible for ensuring that people receiving services from lawyers are protected by the high standards of education, ethics and financial protection maintained by the Society. The primary purpose of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee is to receive and review complaints regarding individuals or entities appearing to provide legal services without the proper authorization.

It has been a busy year for the 2001 committee. Established in 2000, the vetting panel, consisting of three committee members, was reinstated for 2001. The panel was responsible for deliberating smaller items and determining if they should be brought to the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee for discussion. This process proved to be extremely time efficient for the committee.

Throughout the year, the committee examined a number of companies who were providing services typically performed by lawyers. Although no formal recommendations were made, the committee is keeping a watchful eye on these types of services, ensuring that the needs of the public are being met.

The committee also reviewed a number of cases dealing with unauthorized practice. Appropriate action was taken in each case.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their contributions. This includes the Society staff Jim McLeod, Lindsay MacDonald and Kellie McKeil for all their help and guidance over the year. Finally, the investigative work of Steve Bach and Greg Busch added tremendous value to the integrity of the profession.

### Committee Members

John D. Bascom (C)  
Mona T. Duckett (VC)  
Wilfred Willier  
Shirish Chotalia  
Denise J. Kiss  
Lillian K. McLellan  
M. E. A. (Beth) Miller  
C. Calvin Robb

James D. McLeod, LSA  
Lindsay MacDonald, LSA  
Kellie McKeil, LSA

## FAMILY LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

by Norman Picard, QC, chair

It has been a quiet year for the Family Law Advisory Committee.

The main areas of activity this past year related to the Family Law Office Staff Counsel Project and the consideration of a unified family court. Through the Family Law Advisory Committee, the Society had representation in both processes.

Family Law Offices opened in Edmonton and Calgary, and information sessions were offered in each city.

The committee prepared a detailed response to the unified family court report, which was provided to the Minister of Justice for consideration.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their efforts and dedication, as well as the staff of the Society for their vital and abiding support.



### Committee Members

Norman Picard (C)  
Jean M. McBean (VC)  
Bryan E. Mahoney  
Rhonda K. Ruston  
Wendy Best  
Doug Moe  
Alan Maitland

Don Thompson, LSA

A copy of the complete financial report is available by writing to Steven Dyer, CFO, The Law Society of Alberta, #600, 919 - 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 1P3, or by e-mail at Steven.Dyer@lawsocietyalberta.com.

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA  
CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
OCTOBER 31, 2001**

**Auditors' Report**

To the Members of the Law Society of Alberta:

We have audited the financial statements of the Law Society of Alberta as at October 31, 2001 in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and expressed an unqualified opinion on these financial statements in our report dated December 12, 2001.

In our opinion, the information expressed in the attached condensed balance sheet and condensed financial statement of revenue, expenses and fund balances is consistent with the above mentioned financial statements from which it was derived.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
DECEMBER 12, 2001

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**THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA  
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2001**

|  | <b>2001</b>                | <b>2000</b>                |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                              |                            |                            |
| Current Assets                             | \$ 2,267,120               | \$ 2,555,907               |
| Investments                                | 8,580,703                  | 8,660,933                  |
| Trust Assets                               | 391,735                    | 333,017                    |
| Capital Assets                             | <u>505,017</u>             | <u>389,262</u>             |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                        | <b><u>\$11,744,575</u></b> | <b><u>\$11,939,119</u></b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                         |                            |                            |
| Current Liabilities                        | \$ 774,358                 | \$ 685,811                 |
| Reserve for Claims and Related Costs       | 929,000                    | 804,000                    |
| Deferred Rent                              | 370,331                    | 489,370                    |
| Trust Liabilities                          | <u>391,735</u>             | <u>333,017</u>             |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                   | <b><u>2,465,424</u></b>    | <b><u>2,312,198</u></b>    |
| <b>Fund Balances</b>                       |                            |                            |
| Invested in Capital Assets                 | 505,017                    | 389,262                    |
| Restricted Funds                           |                            |                            |
| Contingency Reserve                        | 5,720,294                  | 6,169,061                  |
| Scholarship Reserve                        | 747,122                    | 725,847                    |
| Unrestricted Funds                         | <u>2,306,718</u>           | <u>2,342,751</u>           |
| <b>Total Fund Balances</b>                 | <b><u>9,279,151</u></b>    | <b><u>9,626,921</u></b>    |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b> | <b><u>\$11,744,575</u></b> | <b><u>\$11,939,119</u></b> |

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA  
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND FUND BALANCES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2001**

|  | <b>2001</b>         | <b>2000</b>         |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>   |                     |                     |
| Fees   | \$ 6,595,934        | \$6,041,743         |
| Investment Income  | 764,267             | 1,165,508           |
| Assurance Levy   | 664,624             | 608,010             |
| Other  | 418,154             | 410,489             |
| Bar Admission  | 407,048             | 399,656             |
| Professional Corporations                                    | <u>238,032</u>      | <u>226,606</u>      |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>   | <u>9,088,059</u>    | <u>8,852,012</u>    |
| <br>   |                     |                     |
|  | <b>2001</b>         | <b>2000</b>         |
| <b>Expenses</b>  |                     |                     |
| General and Administration                                   | 5,214,063           | 4,512,555           |
| Governance and Discipline                                    | 1,053,544           | 966,529             |
| Premises   | 762,342             | 709,899             |
| Grants and Contributions                                     | 739,688             | 753,405             |
| Review/Audit of Member Trust Accounts                        | 624,210             | 564,653             |
| Bar Admission  | 572,400             | 572,633             |
| Other  | 330,846             | 255,655             |
| Provision for Claims and Related Costs                       | <u>138,736</u>      | <u>17,305</u>       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <u>9,435,829</u>    | <u>8,352,634</u>    |
| Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue<br>Over Expenses for the Year | (347,770)           | 499,378             |
| Fund Balances - Beginning of Year                            | <u>9,626,921</u>    | <u>9,127,543</u>    |
| Fund Balances - End of Year                                  | <u>\$ 9,279,151</u> | <u>\$ 9,626,921</u> |

A copy of the complete financial report is available by writing to Steven Dyer, CFO, The Law Society of Alberta, #600, 919 - 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 1P3, or by e-mail at Steven.Dyer@lawsocietyalberta.com.

**ALBERTA LAWYERS INSURANCE ASSOCIATION  
CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
OCTOBER 31, 2001**

**Auditors' Report**

To the Directors of the Alberta Lawyers Insurance Association:

We have audited the financial statements of the Alberta Lawyers Insurance Association as at October 31, 2001 in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and expressed an unqualified opinion on these financial statements in our report dated December 12, 2001.

In our opinion, the information expressed in the attached condensed balance sheet and condensed statement of revenue, expenses and net assets is consistent with the above mentioned financial statements from which it was derived.

*PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP*

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
DECEMBER 12, 2001

**ALBERTA LAWYERS INSURANCE ASSOCIATION  
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT OCTOBER 31, 2001**

|   | 2001                        | 2000                        |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                           |                             |                             |
| Current                                 | \$ 5,859,287                | \$ 4,547,246                |
| Investments                             | 45,627,987                  | 44,951,656                  |
| Capital Assets                          | <u>11,808</u>               | <u>21,807</u>               |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                     | <b><u>\$ 51,499,082</u></b> | <b><u>\$ 49,520,709</u></b> |
| <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>       |                             |                             |
| Current                                 | \$ 5,693,946                | \$ 5,535,227                |
| Reserve for Claims/related Costs        | 32,990,000                  | 30,579,000                  |
| Net assets - Unrestricted               | <u>12,815,136</u>           | <u>13,406,482</u>           |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b> | <b><u>\$ 51,499,082</u></b> | <b><u>\$ 49,520,709</u></b> |

**ALBERTA LAWYERS INSURANCE ASSOCIATION  
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2001**

|   | 2001                        | 2000                        |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                                      |                             |                             |
| Annual Levy   | \$ 12,337,608               | \$ 10,437,431               |
| Investment Income                                   | <u>3,920,430</u>            | <u>5,088,503</u>            |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                                | <b>16,258,038</b>           | <b>15,525,934</b>           |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                     | <b><u>16,849,384</u></b>    | <b><u>17,472,116</u></b>    |
| Deficiency of Revenue<br>over Expenses for the Year | (591,346)                   | (1,946,182)                 |
| Net Assets - Beginning of Year                      | <u>13,406,482</u>           | <u>15,352,664</u>           |
| Net Assets - End of Year                            | <b><u>\$ 12,815,136</u></b> | <b><u>\$ 13,406,482</u></b> |

# 2001 Ad Hoc COMMITTEES

## **Aboriginal Scholarship**

J. McBean (C)  
P. Lister  
W. Willier  
J. Daniels  
P. Freeman

## **Alberta Registries**

### **Liaison**

S. Raby (C)  
J. Dunphy  
L. Irwin  
S. Mirth  
R. Nielsen  
C. Rapp  
D. Stratton  
P. Freeman, LSA

## **Alberta Conveyancing Advisory Committee**

J. Dunphy (C)  
C. Gottselig  
S. Mirth  
L. Irwin  
P. Bishop  
C. Warren  
R. Thiessen  
S. Shavers  
H. Bonnycastle  
L. Eccelston  
S. Raby  
D. Homer  
G. Kaskiw  
P. Smith  
L. Wright  
T. McCaffery  
D. Thompson, LSA  
P. Freeman, LSA  
S. Billington, LSA

## **Ancillary Business & Multidisciplinary Practice**

K. Nielsen (C)  
G. Flynn  
N. Picard  
J. Topolniski  
E. Johnson  
C. Peterson  
B. Snowdon  
W. H. Smith  
L. Sugimoto

J. P. Warner  
P. Bourque  
P. Freeman (LSA)  
S. Billington (LSA)

## **Civility Initiative Steering Committee**

P. Sharek (C)  
J. Bascom  
M. Duckett  
B. Vogel  
P. McLaughlin  
Madam Justice C. L.  
Kenny  
R. Laing  
Prof. J. C. Levy  
E. McAvity  
G. Price  
H. Robertson  
B. Stothert-Kennedy

## **Claims Committee**

D. Boyer  
J. Brumlik  
E. Macklin  
D. McGillivray  
A. McKay  
S. Miller  
K. Nielsen  
G. Randall  
G. Scott  
P. Smith  
D. Stokes  
S. Brickett, LSA

## **Disclosure Subcommittee**

K. Nielsen (C)  
A. Macleod  
M. Duckett  
A. Friend  
L. MacDonald, LSA  
D. Guenter, LSA  
T. Caisse, LSA  
S. Brickett, LSA  
J. Mcleod, LSA

## **Election Rules Review**

T. Friend (C)  
J. Peacock  
A. Fielding  
D. Thompson, LSA

## **External Review Committee**

Various judges on a case  
by case basis

## **Joint Subcommittee on Confidentiality**

### **Agreements**

M. Kay (C)  
D. Dennis  
F. Swanson  
R. Everard  
B. Vogel, LSA  
P. McLaughlin, LSA

## **Joint Subcommittee Examining Reduced Insurance Fees for P/T Practitioners**

Y. Stanford (C)  
J. McBean  
R. Ruston  
D. McGillivray  
L. Johnson

## **Policy & Procedures Subcommittee of Practice Review**

R. K. Ruston (C)  
M. Duckett  
K. Nielsen  
B. Philp  
D. Thompson, LSA  
B. Cooper, LSA  
M. Rogers, LSA

## **Practice Review Committee**

A. Macleod (C)  
J. Bascom (VC)  
R. Ruston  
E. Bunnell  
Y. Stanford  
W. Willier  
R. Maxwell  
P. Freeman, LSA  
D. Thompson, LSA  
B. Cooper, LSA  
M. Rogers, LSA

## **Regulation of Law Firms Task Force**

A. Macleod (C)  
E. Macklin  
K. Nielsen  
P. Sharek  
Y. Stanford  
C. Gottselig  
J. Thrasher  
P. Freeman, LSA  
D. Thompson, LSA  
D. Guenter, LSA

## **Subcommittee to Review Pre Law Education Requirements**

F. Swanson  
M. Wylie  
A. Brown

## **Subcommittee to Review Issue of Whether Students Can Review Bar Admission Exams**

J. Topolniski  
J. McBean  
J. Copp

## **Court-Annexed Mediation**

J. Topolniski  
J. McBean  
J. Peacock

## **Court Technology Committee**

V. Stevenson  
L. Anderson  
N. Picard

## **Benevolent Fund Committee**

N. Picard (C)  
J. Bascom  
J. McBean  
M. Taylor

# 2001 SPECIAL COMMITTEES & REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

*\*Nominees requested by outside source*

## **Advisory Committee on Judicial Appointments For Alberta\***

K. G. Nielsen

## **Alberta Business Corporations Act\***

A. J. Hladyshesky

## **Alberta Law Foundation\***

A. L. Friend

J. D. Steele

## **Alberta Law Reform Institute\***

A. D. Macleod

## **Canadian Bar Association, Alberta - Access to Justice**

E. L. Bunnell

## **Canadian Bar Association -Alberta**

E. F. Macklin

K. Nielsen

D. Thompson, LSA

## **Canadian Institute of Resource Law\***

M. F. Swanson

## **Canadian Research Institute for Law & Family\***

W. Best

## **Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association**

P. A. L. Smith

A. L. Friend

K. G. Nielsen

## **Corporate Counsel - Pro Bono Initiative**

M. F. Swanson

## **Editorial Board/CBA Newsletter**

A. MacKenzie, LSA

## **Federation of Law Societies of Canada**

E. F. Macklin

K. Nielsen

P. J. Royal

## **Federation Legal Aid Committee**

L. G. Anderson

## **Federation National Multidisciplinary Partnerships Committee**

K. Nielsen

## **Federation National Committee on Accreditation**

D. Thompson, LSA

## **General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR)\***

Vacant

## **Joint Committee with College of Physicians and Surgeons**

A. L. Friend (C)

B. E. Devlin

V. A. Engel

B. J. Larbalestier

K. Nielsen

D. Thompson, LSA

## **Judicial Liaison Committee**

K. G. Nielsen

## **Law Faculty Council**

J. Peacock

L. G. Anderson

## **Legal Aid Society of Alberta**

L. G. Anderson

## **Legal Aid Nominating Committee**

M. T. Duckett

A. Hepner

## **Legal Aid Family Law Pilot Project Advisory Committee**

N. Picard

D. A. Miller

## **Legal Education Society of Alberta**

B. Mahoney

D. Thompson, LSA

## **Legislative Review Committee (CBA)\***

E. (Sonny) Mirth

## **Notaries Public Review Committee\***

I. B. Kay

## **Pronet**

D. Thompson, LSA

## **Provincial Judicial Council**

E. F. Macklin

K. G. Nielsen

## **Rules of Court Committee**

J. Topolniski

## **Tax Consultative Group\***

D. Cherniawsky

## **Uniform Law Conference of Canada\***

N. C. Wittmann

## **Viscount Bennett Scholarship Committee**

E. F. Macklin

K. G. Nielsen

M. Wylie

L. Klar

D. Thompson, LSA

# THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

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201, 10060 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3R8  
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1 -800- 272-8839 (Toll Free)  
Fax: (780) 424-1620

[www.lawsocietyalberta.com](http://www.lawsocietyalberta.com)

Lawyer Referral Service

(403) 228-1722 (Calgary)  
1 -800-661-1095 (Toll Free)

Jeanne Byron, Equity Ombudsperson

(780) 429-3939 (Edmonton)  
1-888-429-3939 (Toll Free)

*For all other enquiries please contact the main switchboard in Calgary.*

ASSIST Program

Calgary, (403) 237-8880  
Edmonton, (780) 448-0628

Red Deer & South, 1-800-461-8908  
Red Deer & North, 1-800-782-5457