



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
HELD AT THE LAW SOCIETY OFFICES
800 BELL TOWER, 10104 – 103 AVENUE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
APRIL 11, 2013**

Law Society President, Carsten Jensen, QC, called the meeting to order and announced a quorum of 20 members present.

1. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve minutes of the Annual General Meeting held April 12, 2012.

Seconded
CARRIED

2. Reports

a) President

Carsten Jensen, QC

In 2012, the Law Society of Alberta had the benefit of the able leadership of Steve Raby, QC, of the work on these significant initiatives:

1. A conflict rule, proposed by the Federation of Law Societies to complete the National Conduct of Conduct was adopted in a modified form in Alberta. This adoption of a conflict rule completed Alberta's Code of Conduct.
2. National Admission Standards work will continue into 2013.
3. The Conduct Process Implementation Task Force work continues to streamline the Law Society's conduct processes.
4. The complaints inventory and backlog has been reduced.

b) Executive Director

Don Thompson, QC

We continue to make administrative changes to improve our efficiencies and processes, a summary of which include:

- change at the senior staff level and building staff capacity to align with the strategic objectives set by the Benchers;
- positioning ourselves to implement online transactions by upgrading the primary database software used within the organization;
- adopting a project management culture to do our work more efficiently;
- success with objectives within the Strategic Plan; and
- improving processes for handling complaints more efficiently.

APPROVED

APPROVED

3. Committee Reports

a) **Conduct Committee**

Kevin Feth, QC

The Conduct Committee's policy work consisted of two initiatives:

- revising the Hearing Guide, and
- a preliminary analysis of the complaint appeal process.

The committee's citation work is summarized as follows:

- to address the backlog of older and more complicated conduct files, 243 conduct files were processed from February 2012 to January 2013; and
- of the 243 conduct files, 50 were referred to a Mandatory Conduct Advisory, in keeping with the vision to address conduct concerns outside the hearing process and still in the public interest.

b) **Credentials & Education Committee**

Neena Ahluwalia, QC

The Credentials & Education Committee continued its regulatory work with regard to applications for reinstatement and CPLED appeals. The committee is considering a policy change to provide orderly and a consistent process with regard to applications for reinstatement, and the subcommittee is continuing its work on stale dated degrees.

c) **Finance Committee**

Jim Eamon, QC

The Finance Committee's three main functions for 2012 were as follows: (1) completing the budget and presenting it to the Benchers for approval, (2) meeting with the investment manager to review our investment portfolio, and (3) to adjudicate Assurance fund claims.

A small claim was paid from Law Society's general fund in order to prevent further delay to the complainant.

d) **Insurance Committee**

Anne Kirker, QC

The work of the Insurance Committee is summarized as follows:

- obtaining Bencher approval of the Insurance levy.
- obtaining Bencher approval to abolish the waiver of the levy fees for lawyers with more than 50 years of service, subject to a grandfathering provision, provided they are claims-free.

In June the year-ends for ALIA and the Law Society were reconciled to December 31st. In future years this review will fall under the Budget and Financial Affairs Committee with oversight by the Insurance Committee.

e) Practice Review Committee

Sarah King-D'Souza, QC

In the 2012 committee year, the Practice Review Committee held 31 panel meetings reviewing 73 files. Of those 73 files, nine Practice Assessments were conducted and reported on. Eight of those assessments took place in Calgary and one took place in Edmonton.

f) Professional Responsibility Committee

Rose Carter, QC

The Professional Responsibility Committee concluded its work on the Conflict of Interest rule. We have received minimal feedback from the Bar in this regard.

g) Trust Safety Committee

Jim Glass, QC

The 2012 activities of the Trust Safety Committee are summarized as follows:

- The committee reviewed the Safety of Trust program. Feedback from Alberta lawyers resulted in the committee making form amendments and minor rule changes to ensure consistency.
- Three appeals were filed, but did not proceed due to agreeable resolutions.
- The Benchers directed the committee to draft rule to regulate in-house lawyers who wish to have trust accounts under the Safety of Trust program.
- The committee began its work on the insurance to assurance model, and anticipates bring this item before the Benchers in 2013.
- The committee has started looking at the possibility of a trust levy with regard to the operation of trust accounts.
- A trust safety program review was conducted and the results will be reviewed by senior administration.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

None

6. Adjournment

5:22 pm