

The Advisory



IN THIS ISSUE

Legal volunteer embraced internationally	2
Small firms hold opportunity and challenges to students	2
LSA further supports CPD	3
Benchers approve pro bono strategic plan	3
Alberta lawyer elected Red Cross national president	4
Is your banking helping ALF?	4
Recent changes made to Code	5
Conveyancing protocol available with National Parks	6
Significant changes made in family law	6
FLSC-Who are they?	7

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.

Business planning is key

Formalizing and implementing LSA business goals is at the top of the agenda for Doug McGillivray, QC who became president of the LSA last month.

"The operations of the LSA as a regulator are becoming far more diverse and we are being pulled in so many directions by the government, members, and other key publics," said Doug, who was first elected as a bencher in 1999. "In order to provide the best possible service as a regulator, we need to establish goals and priorities that allow us to perform our role in the best possible way, while meeting the expectations of Alberta lawyers and the public."

Over the last year, the LSA has been engaged in developing a structured business plan, which includes determining core roles and complementary roles of the LSA. This, according to Doug, will greatly assist the benchers in planning, prioritizing and budgeting the affairs of the LSA.

"Over the last 10 years, the LSA membership has grown, and with that comes new expectations from the LSA as a regulator. One of those expectations is providing a professional development program for Alberta lawyers," said Doug, a partner at Burnett Duckworth and Palmer LLP. "If this is a priority for the LSA, we need to make sure we have the dedication and resources to make it happen in an exemplary way."

Other commitments for Doug's term as president include getting out to communities other than Calgary and Edmonton. Lawyers outside of Alberta's key business centres are often not aware of LSA activities. Doug believes this can change if the LSA makes a point to reach out to those lawyers.

"I want to see more lawyers outside of Calgary and Edmonton volunteering on LSA committees and running for bencher," said Doug. "Lawyers from rural parts of the province face very different issues, both

in the files they manage, and general practice concerns. We need to understand those issues and the only way to do that is to get out to these communities."

Doug's third

commitment is to strengthen relationships with the government, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and all three levels of court. These three stakeholder groups are at the centre of the LSA's role as a regulator therefore, positive communication and strong ties are paramount.

"Although we operate at arms-length from the government, it is important that we keep our relationship with the government positive. The government trusts us to regulate the profession in the public interest and we need to communicate that we are doing just that, in a competent and trustworthy way," said Doug. "We also have traditionally played a leadership role with the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, most recently in developing the national mobility agreement and fighting the money laundering reporting expectation of lawyers. We also enjoy an excellent relationship with all three levels of court, which will continue to be fostered."

Doug succeeds Larry Anderson, QC, whose one year term as president expired in February 2005. Mona Duckett, QC from Royal, McCrum, Duckett and Glancey is president-elect.

More information about the LSA business plan will be included in a future issue of the *Advisory*. **A**



Doug McGillivray, QC, President, Law Society of Alberta

by Jessi-Ann Riddell,
Communications Assistant,
Law Society of Alberta

Legal volunteer embraced internationally

Canadian legal expertise is increasingly being welcomed by the international community as emerging world powers like China invite our lawyers to share their knowledge, skills and experience. In one such volunteer effort, LSA President-Elect Mona Duckett, QC recently traveled to China to share her legal skills with Chinese lawyers.

As part of the Canadian Bar Association's International Development committee, Mona joined a bank of volunteer lawyers to help support the China Criminal Justice Reform and Advocacy Project (CJRAP). Begun in 2003, CJRAP is a three year project with the Criminal Law committee of the All China Lawyers Association. One of the mandates of the advocacy project is to provide professional skills training for criminal defence lawyers across China.

Attempting to reach as many lawyers as possible, including those who do not have access to continuing legal education, the advocacy project often sends lawyers like Mona to remote regions. In 2004, Mona made two trips to China, travelling to four separate regions south of Kazakhstan. Using translators, she met with groups from 70 to 90 regional lawyers who practise criminal law.

Over the course of these two-day sessions, Mona made some intriguing discoveries. "We found that Chinese lawyers tended not to try to develop

trusting relationships with their clients. They embraced our trust and confidentiality-based approach" she said. "It was also interesting to see how their defence lawyers face similar challenges in terms of lack of respect from judges and the public."

Some of the most revealing discoveries, however, were the extreme cultural differences between our existing legal systems. In one instance, Mona's explanation of a client's 'right to remain silent' was met with raucous laughter from the Chinese lawyers, as no such privilege exists in China.

The importance of supporting our Alberta lawyers' volunteerism in projects like these is profound, especially in this instance as China continues to become a major world power.

"We have an international obligation to assist them in developing the role of law in any way we can" Mona commented. "We have models that will help them to form their own model legal system and we should be proud that China is looking to Canada for expert advice and aid. Improving their legal system will affect the respect they receive in the international community and they are aware of this."

From the efforts by lawyers such as Mona, the Canadian legal system a role model for the Chinese and is respected world-wide. **A**



Mona Duckett, QC, President-Elect,
Law Society of Alberta



by Perry Mack, QC,
Bencher and Chair,
Credentials and
Education Committee

Small firms hold opportunity and challenges to students

The growth of small or 'boutique' law firms poses challenges to graduating law students seeking articling positions. As of December 2004, there were approximately 1,444 firms with 10 lawyers or less in Alberta. As the annual placement process begins, many graduating students are asking their law faculty advisors how to approach those smaller firms for an articling position. Unlike the larger firms that traditionally take on several students, many smaller firms have not considered the important role they play in training graduating law students.

Some small firms have seen the value in hiring articling students who bring a fresh perspective and assist with heavy workloads. Many hire these

students as full-time lawyers who then offer competitive hourly client billing rates. Other small firms do not plan to grow and still hire articling students to assist with the workload.

A significant number of firms, however, have not taken articling students for various reasons such as space concerns, economics, or simply the reluctance to become a larger firm. The universities want more information about these reasons.

If you are a small firm with a limited practice area, hiring a student for partial articles can provide you with assistance during busy periods while minimizing your financial commitment and at the

Continued on page 8



by Cheryl Gottselig, QC
Chair,
Continuing Professional
Development Committee

LSA further explores CPD

Most professions and many other occupations have a mandatory obligation for continuing professional education. Creating and implementing a continuing professional development plan for Alberta lawyers is a priority for the LSA.

Most lawyers are already engaged in a certain level of professional development activity. The LSA's goal is to develop an approach to CPD that acknowledges and values the professionalism of Alberta lawyers in their CPD activities. The approach also encourages lawyers to take responsibility for their own professional development and introduces a variety of alternatives so lawyers can meet their professional obligations.

LESA has undertaken a Futures Project to analyze the current and future needs for the delivery of continuing legal education. The project will provide background information and analysis to better equip LESA in the coming years to deliver accessible, meaningful and relevant continuing legal education opportunities for the legal profession in Alberta. The Futures Project, however, does not replace the work of the LSA, which is regulatory and based on a need to be accountable to the public.

Most CPD programs are measurement-based, requiring a certain threshold of hours to be completed per year. Although this approach is widely used by the legal profession in the United States, the mandatory approach may not be the right fit in Alberta. Further, education policy consultants, professors Frank Peters and Joe daCosta from the Centre for Educational Policy at the University of Alberta have advised that a mandated approach does not necessarily achieve the goal of maintaining and raising the competence level of the profession. It only counts the hours that lawyers spend attending continuing legal education courses.

There are many matters to be addressed in developing this self-directed CPD program. The main goal is to ensure that the CPD plan provides a meaningful and relevant professional development program to assist lawyers in developing excellence and strength in both law and practice.

Lawyers who have comments or suggestions about a professional development program, should email Susan Billington at susan.billington@lawsocietyalberta.com. A

.....
16th Inter-Pacific Bar
Association Conference
The Hilton Hotel,
Sydney, Australia
April 30 – May 3, 2006
Visit www.ipba2006.com
for more information
.....



by Doug Mah, QC, Bencher and
Chair, Pro Bono Committee

Benchers approve pro bono strategic plan

In recognition of the profession's obligation to assist those who cannot afford to pay for legal services, the benchers recently approved a strategy to encourage more lawyers to join the pro bono cause in Alberta. Drawing upon the principles set out in *Pro Bono Publico: For The Public Good (April 2003)**, the benchers established four objectives intended to promote pro bono activity in the province:

- ✦ Creating a new membership category that allows retired and inactive lawyers to volunteer for an approved pro bono provider, while reducing membership fees and waiving all other levies but maintaining insurance coverage. It is anticipated that the new category will be implemented by February 2006.
- ✦ Establishing one or more pro bono clinics in regions other than Edmonton and Calgary.
- ✦ Facilitating the establishment of a stakeholder

group to govern and coordinate the delivery of pro bono services in Alberta.

- ✦ Promoting the adoption of the CBA's model pro bono policy by law firms in the province.

In setting out this strategy, the benchers were mindful of their previous statements in the report that while a professional obligation, pro bono contributions should be voluntary, not mandatory, and that the LSA's role should be to facilitate, not operate, pro bono delivery. The benchers also reaffirmed the principle that pro bono legal services should complement, but not replace, a properly funded legal aid program.

The Pro Bono committee is actively engaged in pursuing each of the objectives. Individual lawyers or firms wishing more information about how they can take part in the pro bono strategy can contact Doug Mah, QC at (780) 498-8665.

* available at www.lawsocietyalberta.com. A



by Steve Raby, QC,
Chair,
Alberta Law Foundation

Is your banking helping ALF?

In 1973, Alberta was the second province to create a law foundation. Since that time, in accordance with the *Legal Profession Act*, the Alberta Law Foundation has been distributing revenues collected on the interest of lawyers operating 'pooled' trust accounts, which otherwise would have been defaulted to the banks.

Last year, over 40 organizations received ALF funding, most of them contributing to public legal education and law research in Alberta. These included many well established agencies such as the Alberta Law Reform Institute, the Alberta Law Society Libraries, the Legal Education Society of Alberta (Bar Admission Course), and various legal research centres and institutes at the University of Alberta and University of Calgary. Public legal education funding included the John Howard Society (school program) and Elizabeth Fry (court worker program). Full details are available at www.albertalawfoundation.org.

The amount of money available to be distributed varies with interest rates and with the amounts on deposit. In July and August 2004, the total balance of all general trust accounts held in all financial institutions in Alberta exceeded \$1 billion. The

large number of small accounts, any one of which would not likely be able to attract any reasonable amount of interest, can make a huge difference in the aggregate.

Most financial institutions offer reasonable rates of interest to ALF. When you decide where your firm will do its banking, you should consider what interest rate your bank is paying to ALF. In recent years, a benchmark rate of Prime less three per cent has been available from most financial institutions. As of late, CIBC, RBC, and TD/CanadaTrust set a new benchmark of net Prime - 2.75 per cent or better. Inquire to see if your bank is being competitive in the interests of all Albertans, including your clients.

National Bank continues to pay a rate far below what is fair in the market and even far less than the smallest credit unions in the province. The annual 'loss' of interest revenue to ALF is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Is your firm receiving some benefit for banking with the National Bank, and if so, shouldn't the benefit be going to Albertans through the objectives being fulfilled by ALF funding? **A**

Alberta lawyer elected Red Cross national president

by Jessi-Ann Riddell,
Communications Assistant,
Law Society of Alberta

Calgary family lawyer Kate Wood was elected president of the Canadian Red Cross at their Annual General Meeting in Scarborough, Ontario on November 14.

Admitted into the Law Society of Alberta in 1991, Kate began her legal career articling at Parlee McLaws, later setting up her family law practice at Munro and Wood with colleague Jamie Munro. Kate has been volunteering with the Red Cross for more than 21 years, most recently as vice-president on the Board of Governors.

Kate stresses the importance of volunteering for lawyers, "I've become very aware of how needed lawyers really are in non-profit organizations. Lawyers play a vital role because they bring strong communication skills, legal expertise, objective mindsets and often have the ability to see the big picture." she notes. "I think it's incredible that there are thousands of Alberta lawyers currently involved

in community volunteerism. Like most, I can't imagine not volunteering," she says, "I think it feels good to know that we are all doing something to make our world a better place. We each do our own little bit."

Throughout and before her legal career, Kate has volunteered with a number of organizations including Providence Children's Development Agency, Alberta UNICEF, United Way of Calgary, and the Inter-Faith and Family Services Society. Kate was a national council voting member from the Canadian Bar Association's provincial council for six years, co-chaired a provincial CBA mid-winter meeting and has been a member of the LSA's Communications committee.

Kate's primary role in the next two years as president involves chairing the board of governors

Continued on page 8





by Brad Nemetz, QC,
Bencher and
Past Chair, Professional
Responsibility Committee

Recent changes made to Code

The Professional Responsibility committee's mandate is to oversee the Code of Professional Conduct and to render advisory opinions on questions of legal ethics. At the February bencher meeting, two amendments to the Code were made.

First Amendment

The first was to clarify the impropriety of using threats to obtain a civil advantage. The Code had previously been explicit in prohibiting the threatening of criminal charges, but it was silent on the question of threatening disciplinary proceedings against lawyers, or a lawyer seeking as part of a settlement with a client to extract from the client an undertaking not to report the matter to the LSA.

To address this issue, Chapter 10, Rule 4 of the Code has been replaced with the following rule:

- ✦ A member shall not personally, and shall not advise a client to:
 - (a) lay or threaten to lay a criminal or quasi-criminal charge; or
 - (b) make or threaten to make a complaint against a lawyer to a law society; or
 - (c) agree to withhold the laying of, or to withdraw, a criminal or quasi-criminal charge; or
 - (d) agree to withhold the making of, or to withdraw, a complaint against a lawyer to a law society, for the collateral purpose of enforcing the payment of a civil claim or securing any other civil advantage for a client of the member.

Second Amendment

The Code was also changed to provide protection for lawyers and their clients in circumstances where a prospective client seeks the advice of a law firm and, after conducting a conflicts check, the law firm determines that it cannot accept the retainer. When obtaining information to conduct a conflicts check **lawyers should be careful to obtain as little substantive information as possible from the prospective client and limit the exchange of information to the general nature of the retainer and the names of opposing parties.** Armed with this information the lawyer can then conduct a conflicts check. However, given that we live in an imperfect world and clients often provide more than minimal information, an amendment has

been developed that ensures the isolation of the confidential information. In light of this, the benchers approved the following Commentary to Chapter 6 of the Code:

- ✦ *C.3.4 Prospective client:* A prospective client is a person who discloses confidential information to a lawyer for the purpose of retaining the lawyer. A lawyer must maintain the confidentiality of information received from a prospective client. Before doing a conflict check, a lawyer should endeavour not to receive more information than is necessary to carry out the conflict check. As soon as a conflict becomes evident the lawyer must, unless the conflict is resolved by the consent of the existing client and the prospective client or Court approval, decline the representation and refuse to receive any further information. If the lawyer declines the representation, the information disclosed by the prospective client, including the fact that the client approached the firm, must not be disclosed to those who may act against the prospective client, notwithstanding Chapter 9, Commentary G.1. The firm may act or continue to act contrary to the interests of the prospective client in relation to the proposed retainer if the lawyer takes adequate steps to ensure that
 - (a) the confidential information is not disclosed to other firm members representing clients adverse to the prospective client, and
 - (b) firm members who have the confidential information will not be involved in any retainer that is related to the matter for which the prospective client sought to retain the firm.

The adequacy of the measures taken to prevent disclosure of the information will depend on the circumstances of the case and may include destroying, sealing, or returning to the prospective client notes and correspondence and deleting or password protecting computer files on which any such information may be recorded.

Lawyers are cautioned that having recourse to this rule, and the establishment of screening devices, is a second-choice position. Ideally a lawyer should receive no confidential information beyond the names of the parties prior to conducting the conflicts check. **A**

Alberta Courts Practice Notes

Hard copies of new or amended Practice Notes and Notices to the Profession from the courts are no longer being included with the *Advisory*.

Lawyers can access Practice Notes and Notices to the Profession for the three levels of court at the Alberta Court's website at www.albertacourts.ab.ca. Recently posted on the website were the following new and amended Practice Notes and Notices to the Profession:

Provincial Court of Alberta –
Criminal Division and Family and
Youth Division

**Notice to the Profession:
Publication Bans**

Court Services

**Notice to the Profession:
Universal Transcript Format**

Queen's Printer will continue to publish and distribute new and amended Practice Notes and Notices to the Profession with their updates to the Rules of Court binder.

Employment Opportunity

The Law Society of Alberta is looking for a complaints resolution officer to work in the Calgary office. For more information visit www.lawsocietyalberta.com and click on *News and Events – What's New*.



by Steve Raby, QC,
Benchler

Conveyancing protocol available with National Parks

When the Western Law Societies Conveyancing Project was initially implemented, one of the exceptions to the available transactions was a conveyance of a leasehold estate. As a result of this exclusion, transactions involving leasehold titles within National Parks could not be completed on a Protocol basis.

After hearing from a number of lawyers practising law in Banff and Jasper, the Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association has confirmed that a transaction involving the conveyance of a leasehold

title within Canada's national parks may now be completed on a Protocol basis, provided that all of the other pre-conditions to a Protocol closing are met, including the consent from Parks Canada to the assignment and mortgage of the lease and any necessary consent from the towns of Banff and Jasper (where applicable).

For more information on the Western Law Societies Conveyancing Project, including a list of lenders please visit www.lawsocietyalberta.com – *publications & policies – conveyancing protocol.* **A**



by Warren Jennings, Lawyer,
Moe & Hannab

Significant changes made in family law

Retroactive Child Support

The Alberta Court of Appeal released three decisions in January, 2005 relating to retroactive child support claims – *D.B.S. v. S.R.G., L.J.W. v. T.A.R.*, and *Henry v. Henry*. The cases can be read on the Court of Appeal website at www.albertacourts.ca.

The following is important for lawyers to understand: The 1997 Federal Child Support Guidelines represented a fundamental change in the law of child support. In a simple case, a payor can easily determine their obligation by reference to the Guidelines.

Under the new cases, the obligation to pay an increased amount of child support begins at the time the payor's income increases. The court is not restricted to awarding retroactive child support to the date of the payee's notice about his or her intention to seek a variation. Child support will be varied backwards to the date of change in the payor's income.

The presumed starting date of the increased obligation is the date of the increase of the payor's income, regardless of court order, agreement, or notice given by the payee.

There are some exceptions to the above rule, which are set out in the judgments. It is anticipated that these exceptions will rarely occur in practice.

Therefore, it follows that a payor should disclose increases in his or her income and pay the increased amount of child support to prevent a

successful application for a retroactive award of child support.

In theory, a decrease in the payor's income should work the same way. In practice, a careful consideration of all factors should be undertaken prior to an automatic decrease in child support.

Child support agreements and court orders should include provision for the payor to provide income information annually and that the agreement or court order is subject to adjustment.

Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines

The federal Department of Justice released the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines last January. It is not the law but is expected to influence future determinations of spousal support. The document can be accessed at the Federal Department of Justice website at www.canada.justice.gc.ca.

Family Law Act

The provincial *Family Law Act*, which is a consolidation of a number of different family law statutes with some significant changes to the law being incorporated into it, is expected to be proclaimed into force on May 15, 2005. Lawyers should review a copy of the legislation in advance of May 15, 2005 before advising clients. **A**

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Judgment Interest Act

The interest rate for pecuniary damages under the *Judgment Interest Act* is 3.4% for January 1-December 31, 2005



●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Lawyers needed for Pro Bono Work in Afghanistan

Visit www.lawsocietyalberta.com and click on *News and Events – What's New* for more information



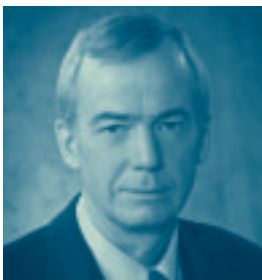


by Dale Spackman, QC,
Bencher and Chair, Corporate and
Commercial Advisory Committee

New Practice Advisors



Nancy Carruthers, formerly of Parlee McLaws LLP in Calgary, has practised mostly in civil litigation with a focus on insurance defence, personal injury, property damage, professional negligence and products liability. Nancy can be reached at (403) 229-4714 or 1-866-440-4640.



Ross McLeod, formerly from Bryan and Company LLP in Edmonton, has practised mostly in civil litigation and insurance law. He is also an experienced mediator, receiving his training from the Alberta Mediation and Arbitration Society. Ross can be reached at (780) 412-2301 or 1-800-661-2135.

The practice advisors are available for all Alberta lawyers and students-at-law for legal, ethical and practice concerns. This is a free service offered by the LSA and all calls are confidential.

Federation of Law Societies of Canada – Who are they?

Many lawyers have either never heard of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada or are not aware of its objectives, mandate and activities. Originally formed in 1926 and known as the Conference of Governing Bodies of the Legal Profession in Canada, the FLSC became an autonomous body in 1972 when it incorporated under the *Canada Corporations Act*. Its members are comprised of each Canadian law society and the *Chambre des Notaries du Québec* which regulates the notaries in Quebec. The FLSC and the CBA work cooperatively and the activities of each complement the other.

Some examples of the projects which the FLSC has been active in over the past years are as follows:

- ✦ establishment of the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CANLII) which provides free access to primary sources of Canadian law on the internet;
- ✦ development and implementation of the National Mobility Agreement (now adopted by eight jurisdictions);
- ✦ national continuing legal education programs on such topics as family law and criminal law;
- ✦ appearance before the special committee on Bill C-36 to voice concerns about the federal anti-terrorism legislation;
- ✦ application to the courts in respect of the applicability of federal money laundering legislation to lawyers;
- ✦ submission to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on the applicability of SEC 'whistle blower' and 'up the ladder reporting' regulations to foreign lawyers.

In 2003, after an extensive process of consultation among its members, the governance of the FLSC was amended such that it is now governed by a council comprised of a representative appointed by each law society and the *Chambre des Notaries*

du Québec, together with the president and president-elect appointed by council. Council may also appoint the immediate past president as an *ex officio* member of the council. Each representative exercises the powers of a director and represents its member law society in matters which must be decided by the members. All major decisions of the FLSC must be adopted unanimously by the law societies. Although this may appear cumbersome, it works quite well.

The present objects of the FLSC are:

- ✦ to identify and study matters of essential concern to the legal profession in Canada to further cooperation among the governing bodies of the legal profession in Canada with a view to achieving uniformity in such matters;
- ✦ to operate as a forum for the exchange of views and information of common interest to the governing bodies of the legal profession in Canada and facilitate the governing bodies working together on matters of common concern;
- ✦ to improve the understanding of the public respecting the work of the legal profession in Canada; and
- ✦ in appropriate cases, to express the views of the governing bodies of the legal profession on national and international issues in accordance with directions of the members of the FLSC.

The members of the FLSC meet twice yearly and the council more often as they deem appropriate. Each member normally sends its president, president-elect, executive director and council member to these semi-annual meetings.

Funding is provided by an annual levy of the 86,000 plus lawyers and notaries regulated by the members of the FLSC.

For further information, visit the FLSC website at www.flsc.ca. **A**

.....

The 2005 Media and the Law Seminar
Bringing lawyers, media and the judicial community together to discuss issues of common interest
Saturday, April 9, 2005 in Calgary
visit www.lawsocietyalberta.com and click on
News and Events – Events for conference program and registration details

.....

.....

Commonwealth Law 2005
In September 2005 the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Law Society of England and Wales will host their first ever combined conference in London "Commonwealth Law 2005"
September 11-15, 2005 Westminster, London
visit www.commonwealthlaw2005.com

.....

Small firms hold opportunity and challenges for students

Continued from page 2

same time provide the student with invaluable experience in diverse practice areas. The Rules of the LSA allow for shared or partial articles, ensuring that students receive the diversity of practice areas required. For example, students may want to article at one firm that offers experience in family and criminal law, and then move to another firm for civil litigation and wills and estates.

Career advisors at the faculties of law would like the assistance and advice of smaller firms that have not taken or seldom take students. Please contact one of the career advisors and tell them what smaller firm concerns are, and how you can be convinced to open your firm to a mutually rewarding experience.

Career Advisors

University of Calgary – Maryanne Forray
(403) 220-2177 Email: forrayim@ucalgary.ca

University of Alberta – Patricia Neil
(780) 492-7305 Email: pneil@law.ualberta.ca. **A**

Alberta lawyer elected Red Cross national president

Continued from page 4

and leading the more than 25,000 Red Cross volunteers across Canada. Recently, she was in Togo, Africa with the Red Cross to launch a malaria prevention project along with representatives from the Canadian government, the American Red Cross and the Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies. “When I think of the Red Cross”, she says, “it reminds me that there are so many people who care about each other in this world.”

Kate’s vision for the Red Cross includes revitalizing volunteer engagement, increasing the financial stability of the organization, strengthening relationships with other non-profit organizations and enhancing the Red Cross’ relationships with government partners such as the Canadian International Development Agency. She notes that the Canadian Red Cross has been very involved in promoting international humanitarian law and provides the secretariat for the Canadian National Committee for Humanitarian Law. **A**



THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

#500, 919 - 11th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2R 1P3
Telephone (403) 229-4700
Toll free 1-800-661-9003
Fax (403) 228-1728
Website: www.lawsocietyalberta.com
Editor – Eileen Dooley
Editorial Assistant – Jessi-Ann Riddell

The Advisory is published five times a year for the members, partners and key stakeholders of the Law Society of Alberta. Articles and comments should be directed to Eileen Dooley, at (403) 229-4744, or eileen.dooley@lawsocietyalberta.com

THE BENCHERS

Doug McGillivray, <i>ac, President</i>	
Mona Duckett, <i>ac, President-Elect</i>	
Tudor Beattie, <i>ac</i>	Judy Boyes, <i>ac</i>
Ron Everard, <i>ac</i>	Charles Gardner, <i>ac</i>
John Holmes, <i>ac</i>	Rodney Jerke, <i>ac</i>
Perry Mack, <i>ac</i>	Douglas Mah, <i>ac</i>
Larry McConnell, <i>ac</i>	Peter Michalyszyn, <i>ac</i>
Vaughn Myers, <i>ac</i>	Bradley Nemetz, <i>ac</i>
Jim Peacock, <i>ac</i>	Brian Peterson, <i>ac</i>
John Prowse, <i>ac</i>	Steve Raby, <i>ac</i>
Norma Seippert	Yvonne A. Stanford
Vivian Stevenson, <i>ac</i>	Dale Spackman, <i>ac</i>
Morris Taylor	Wilfred Willier

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Don Thompson, *ac, Executive Director*
Steven Dyer, *Chief Financial Officer*
Lindsay MacDonald, *ac, Senior Counsel*
Greg Busch, *Director of Lawyer Conduct*
Lisa Sabo, *Director of Insurance*
Nona Cameron, *Director of Human Resources*

New Search Engine on CanLii

Visit the CanLii site at www.canlii.org/index_en.html for a new search engine, which allows users to define the terms and scope of a search by jurisdiction, collection type, or court level by simply checking a box. The speed of the search has also changed, and every decision with a neutral citation can be noted up.

Searches can also be refined by restricting or extending parameters in the results page.

CanLii is interested in feedback on the search engine. Please take a moment to fill out the feedback form, located on the site.

SERVICES FOR LAWYERS

Practice Advisors: Confidential professional and personal advice for lawyers on legal, ethical and practice concerns, personal matters or mediation, practice start-up, practice management, and firm management, risk management, career transition.

Contact Nancy Carruthers, (403) 229-4714 or toll free 1-866-440-4640 **Email:** nancy.carruthers@lawsocietyalberta.com
Ross McLeod, (780) 412-2301 or toll free 1-800-272-8839 **Email:** ross.mcleod@lawsocietyalberta.com

Membership Department: Lawyers and students should contact this department for changing contact information, membership status, insurance status and any student issues.

Contact (403) 229-4781 or toll free 1-800-661-9003 **Email:** membership@lawsocietyalberta.com

Practice Review: A committee of the Law Society of Alberta that helps lawyers recognize areas of concern within their practices and provides information about resources and help to implement a program of change. Lawyers seeking practice review services will work with a panel of three members of the practice review committee and a staff person.

Contact Barbara Cooper, Manager, Practice Review at (403) 229-4720 **Email:** barbara.cooper@lawsocietyalberta.com

Mentor Program: A free service that provides lawyers with the names of experienced mentors or practitioners in family law, criminal law, wills and estates, real property law and civil litigation.

Contact 1-800-272-8839

ASSIST Program: A service, totally separate from the Law Society of Alberta, provided through Kelly, Luttmer & Associates, an independent consulting firm. This service provides free confidential counselling to lawyers and their immediate family on issues such as emotional distress, depression, substance and gambling abuse, grief and loss, and career issues. Users of the ASSIST program are never identified to the Law Society of Alberta.

Phone: (403) 237-8880 or toll free 1-800-461-8908

Office of the Equity Ombudsperson: Confidential assistance with the development of workplace policies and the resolution of harassment and discrimination concerns.

Contact Janet Gaetano, Acting Equity Ombudsperson at toll free 1-888-429-3939