

Communiqué

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

KYLE DEAR

What's New

FRAUD ALERT

2025 CALL TO THE BAR

**CHANGES COMING FOR
TITLE INSURANCE**

The benchers will be engaging in some governance training at our September meeting in Clear Lake, and it felt like a good time to talk briefly about the board composition of the Law Society of Manitoba, and in particular, to shine a spotlight on our Lay Benchers and their unique and important contributions to our governing body.

The Law Society of Manitoba is the independent regulator of the legal profession in the province, entrusted with protecting the public interest in the delivery of legal services. Its governing board, known as the benchers, is composed of 12 practising lawyers elected by their peers, four practising lawyers appointed based upon a skills matrix, six public representatives appointed by a statutory committee¹, one articling student elected by fellow students, the immediate past president of the Law Society, and the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba.

If you did the math, you calculated that six of the 25 benchers, or almost a quarter of the Law Society's directors, are public representatives. This governance structure is designed to ensure that the regulation of the legal profession is informed not only by legal expertise, but also by the perspectives and values of the broader public.

Lay Benchers play a critical role in maintaining public trust and accountability in the legal system. Though they are not members of the legal profession, they participate fully in governance and oversight. Together, they bring essential public voices to the regulatory table, and their presence ensures that decisions affecting the legal profession reflect not only internal standards, but also external expectations and community realities.

¹ The six public representatives are appointed for a two year term in each election year by a Committee chaired by the Chief Justice of the Province of Manitoba.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued...

These important volunteers, who give so much time and energy to our profession, are essential to the Law Society's role as a balanced, responsive, transparent, and independent regulator.

The six current Lay Benchers of the Law Society bring a wide range of professional backgrounds, competencies, and lived experiences to the benchers table.

Gordon Daman, a Lay Bencher since 2024, is the President of Red River Group, which provides its clients with real property management, valuations, and consultations. He has a background in public service, having served as a Councillor on the Niverville Town Council and as Niverville's Mayor. He is also a Lay Minister with extensive community involvement. In addition to serving as a bencher, Gordon is currently a member of the Law Society's Discipline Committee, Professional Liability Claims Fund Committee, Reimbursement Fund Claims Committee, and is the Vice Chair of the Investment Committee. In 2024, he was a member of the Practice & Ethics Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Discipline Committee.

Patrick Fortier, a Lay Bencher since 2024, holds a master's degree in public administration and a BA in economics, and is currently the Managing Director of the Internal Trade Secretariat. Patrick, who is Francophone and Métis, has a background as a policy analyst for both Manitoba Finance and the Public Service Commission, and has served on many non-profit boards. In addition to serving as a bencher, Patrick is currently a member of the Law Society's Access to Justice Committee, Discipline Committee, Practice & Ethics Committee, and Nominating Committee. In 2024, he was a member of the Access to Justice and Discipline Committee.

Terry Jaenen, a Lay Bencher since 2022, serves as a Constituency Assistant for the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. She is a community member of the Mental Health Review Board and was previously a member of the Society Security Tribunal of Canada. Terry, who is a resident of Brandon, owned and operated her own business for 11 years and she has extensive involvement in the community. In addition to serving as a bencher, she is currently a member of the Law Society's Discipline Committee, Practice & Ethics Committee, Professional Liability Claims Fund Committee, Reimbursement Claims Fund Committee, and was previously a member of the Investment Committee, Nominating Committee, Access to Justice Committee, Complaints Investigation Committee, Discipline Committee, Professional Liability Claims Fund Committee, Reimbursement Claims Fund Committee, and President's Special Committee on Regulating Legal Entities.

Tehani Jainarine, a Lay Bencher since 2020, works as a Senior Policy and Research Analyst with the Federal Anti-racism Secretariat | Federal & Intergovernmental Policy. Previously, she was the Director of the Multiculturalism Secretariat with the Province of Manitoba. In addition to serving as a bencher, Tehani is currently a member of the Law Society's Discipline Committee, Equity Committee, Investment Committee, and was formerly a member of the Admissions and Education Committee, Admissions and Education Appeals Committee, Nominating Committee, Complaints Investigation Committee, President's Special Committee on Regulating Legal Entities, Discipline Committee Equity Committee and Access to Justice Steering Committee.

continued...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued...

Carmen Nedohin joined the Law Society as a public representative in 2016, sitting on discipline and appeal panels. She became a Lay Benchler in 2022 and was elected to be Officer-at-Large, serving on the Law Society's Executive since 2024. Carmen is the Chair of MPIC and the former Chair of Manitoba's CARP chapter. She owned and operated her own business for 27 years and has extensive community involvement. She was a two-time recipient of the WBOM Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Contribution to the Community and Impact on the Local Economy categories, and was nominated for the YM-YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Business Category. In addition to serving as a benchler, Carmen is a member (and former member) of the Law Society's Executive, the Audit and Risk Committee, the Discipline Committee, the Investment Committee, and the Richard J. Scott Award Selection Committee, and was formerly the Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and member of the Equity Committee.

Deanna Wilson, a Lay Benchler since 2024, is Executive Director of the Administrative Branch of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. She has an extensive background in human resources, as well as a significant history of community involvement, including serving as a public representative on the Complaints Investigation Committee for CPA Manitoba. In addition to serving as a benchler, Deanna is a current and former member of the Law Society's Complaints Investigation Committee and Access to Justice Committee.

All six of these individuals are truly a pleasure to work with; they are committed to the Law Society's work, are always well-prepared and engaged, and their participation and input is essential to our good governance. The Law Society and the profession are so fortunate to have them at the benchler table. Thank you **Gordon, Patrick, Terry, Tehani, Carmen, and Deanna!**

I am thinking of those who have been affected by the wildfires this summer.

Take care, everyone. Hope you all have a happy and safe September long weekend.



Bencher By-Election Results



JASON GISSER

The successful candidates in the 2025 Bencher by-election for the City of Winnipeg electoral district were Jason Gisser and Nicole Hamilton.

Mr. Gisser and Ms Hamilton will take their seats at the bencher table in September following their formal appointment by the benchers at the meeting held on June 26, 2025.

Thank you to all the nominees who put their names forward.



NICOLE HAMILTON

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Discover how the Law Society of Manitoba is making a difference — from championing equity, diversity and inclusion to expanding access to justice across the province. It's all in our 2025 Annual Report — now available!

VIEW REPORT



CEO'S REPORT

LEAH KOSOKOWSKY



The benchers approved of a proposal for the firm Navigator to develop and roll out a campaign to educate and unite Canadians around the rule of law.

As I prepare this report, I am astonished we are half-way through the summer already and as I look out my window at the grey (yet, cloudless) sky, my thoughts are with our Northern members and their families who either have been displaced by the wildfires or are under threat of having to uproot their lives. The Law Society staff and volunteers were very sad to have had to cancel the events planned for northern students and lawyers in June, but we are committed to renewing our plans when circumstances permit.

Annual Meeting and Bencher Meeting

Just prior to the summer break, the Law Society held its annual meeting at which the audited financial statements were approved and the annual report was presented. Both can be found [here](#).

Immediately following the annual meeting, the benchers held their last meeting before breaking for the summer. We were pleased to welcome **Louis-Martin Beaumont** and **Jonathan Herman**, the Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada who provided a briefing on the work being conducted at the Federation.

CEO REPORT continued...

Strategic Plan

The benchers were presented with an Activity Plan which includes a variety of initiatives intended to achieve the objectives that were set out in the three-year Strategic Plan approved by the benchers earlier this year. It is an ambitious plan with an emphasis on just-in-time targeted resources to support the competence of the profession, and data collection and analytics to assess the effectiveness of the Society's initiatives. Both the Strategic Plan and the Activity Plan can be found [here](#).

Bencher Appointments

The Law Society held a by-election to fill two vacancies in the City of Winnipeg Electoral District. A record number of candidates (14) put their names forward, with **Jason Gisser** and **Nicole Hamilton** garnering the most votes. The benchers formally appointed Jason and Nicole at the June bencher meeting and I will be very pleased to welcome them to the bencher table in September.

Rule of Law Campaign

Law societies are mandated to ensure that the public is served by an ethical, competent and independent legal profession. An independent profession requires an independent judiciary, an independent regulator and a free press. There is an immediate and significant threat to the rule of law internationally. The benchers approved of a proposal for the firm Navigator to develop and roll out a campaign to educate and unite Canadians around the rule of law.

The Path

The benchers received a report regarding compliance by the profession with the mandated cultural awareness and competency program, The Path. They also received a summary of the feedback received from those who completed the program. I am very pleased to report that compliance with the program is 99% for those members who were required to complete the program by April 1, 2025. The feedback has largely been very positive, with 83% of respondents reporting the information learned will impact how they conduct their practice.

The Fair Trade in Canada (Internal Trade Mutual Recognition) Act

When it was anticipated that the Manitoba government would enact legislation that removes trade barriers for goods and services between provinces in response to the implementation of tariffs by the USA, the Law Society engaged in extensive communication regarding the existing mobility agreements affecting lawyers and urged the province to recognize those agreements. We were pleased to report to the benchers that the legislation, which received Royal Assent on June 3, 2025, does not include the legal profession.

CPLED Capstone Evaluations

The benchers received a report from CPLED regarding the performance of Manitoba's articling students in the March 2025 capstone. While the overall pass rate was 91%, Manitoba students had a pass rate of 99%, a considerable improvement over prior capstone sittings.

MORE FROM THE JUNE BENCHER MEETING



Congratulations

PRIZE WINNERS

The following Law Students were the 2025 recipients of the Law Society Awards for the highest standings in third year law:

1st Place:
Margaret Hypatia Crawford Award
Lisa Haydey

2nd Place: **Laraib Khaliqdina**
3rd Place: **Cody Buhay**
4th Place: **David Krowiak**

President Kyle Dear (centre) had the pleasure of officially congratulating David Krowiak (left) and Cody Buhay (right) on their achievements at the June benchers meeting.



Louis-Martin Beaumont, Vice President, Federation of Law Societies of Canada, received an Honourary Member Certificate at the June benchers meeting.




Jonathan Herman, CEO, Federation of Law Societies of Canada, received a special gift of a Law Society of Manitoba jacket.

**Take the Next Step
Connect with**



All contacts are confidential

 204-201-1764

 support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca

 www.lawyerstrong-mb.ca

FRAUD ALERT !

Suspicious Deals Involving Counterfeit Bank Drafts

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance



The Law Society has now had calls from at least eight lawyers retained by the same fraudsters trying to pass fraudulent bank drafts.

These particular fraudsters have been presenting as the potential purchasers of the same three properties - a house in Niverville, a condo in Winnipeg and a \$1.2 million house in Winnipeg. These are cash deals. The male scammer says he is a successful businessman either buying a house for himself, a condo for his girlfriend or a house for his wife. The fraudsters tweak their stories a bit each time when asked about the source of the funds.

The fraudsters bring in a bank draft at the very last minute. So far, they have presented what looks like a bank draft from the downtown branch of a chartered bank, but that location or institution might change. Various lawyers have told us the draft 'doesn't look right'. Lawyers who have contacted the branch about the draft have been advised by bank staff that it is counterfeit and not to negotiate it. One unfortunate lawyer deposited the draft into their trust account only to learn after several days that the draft was fraudulent.

Fraudsters like this have motivated banks and other savings institutions to put an automatic hold on all instruments, even bank drafts, law firm trust cheques and mortgage advances. Until the instrument clears, it will not be credited to the lawyer's trust account. This is why it is critical for all funds to be collected well in advance so that the instrument can pass through the bank's clearing process successfully before you can safely write a trust cheque or release trust conditions based on receipt of those funds.

Red Flags to Watch For:



- **All-cash deals (usually residential purchases)**, where the money comes in at the last minute
- **Implausible or unverifiable explanations** for the source of large funds
- Clients who **move from lawyer to lawyer** after others decline to act
- Clients who apply **pressure to close quickly**

These fraudsters have targeted solo and small firm lawyers and also firms with large real estate practices. They may come to you next.

FRAUD ALERT continued...**Professional Obligations:**

As a lawyer, remember you are obligated by Rule 3.2-7 of the *Code of Professional Conduct* to **avoid becoming the tool or dupe of an unscrupulous client.**

The client identification and verification rules, designed to thwart money laundering, also help you identify frauds when you **make the required reasonable inquiries into the source of funds and get answers that don't add up.**

Trust accounting rules protect the integrity of your trust account. Before disbursing any trust money on any matter, make sure you have sufficient money in trust for that matter. Consult with your savings institution about how long a hold period the institution puts on various types of instruments that clients, lenders and others provide to you. Never assume a cheque or draft is 'good'.

When in **doubt: pause, verify, and consider whether declining to act may be the right step.**

**Need Help or Guidance?**

If you have concerns about a suspicious transaction or have been stung by fraudsters, please contact:

Anyone in the insurance department:

Tana Christianson



204-926-2011

Kate Craton

204-926-2012

Will Barnstead

204-926-2013

Robert Walichnowski

204-926-2024



tchristianson@lawsociety.mb.ca

kcraton@lawsociety.mb.ca

wbarnstead@lawsociety.mb.ca

rwalichnowski@lawsociety.mb.ca

Or

Noelia Bernardo, Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor

204-926-2019 practiceadvisor@lawsociety.mb.ca

Or

Contact the Law Society's general line: 204-942-5571



On June 20, 2025, a total of 107 candidates were formally presented to the Court of King's Bench during the Call to the Bar ceremony held at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg. Nearly one-quarter of these newly called lawyers earned their degrees outside Canada. While some chose to study abroad, others left their home countries—including the Philippines, the United Kingdom, India, Ghana, Nigeria, Australia, the United States, and Syria—bringing their diverse experiences and perspectives to the Manitoba profession. Each candidate took both the Barrister's and Solicitor's Oaths. The proceedings were presided over by Chief Justice Glenn Joyal, and The Honourable Justice Jennifer Pfuetzner delivered an address to the newly called members of the legal profession.



Chief Justice Joyal presided over the ceremony.



Law Society President, Kyle Dear, addressed the candidates and guests.



Guest speaker, The Honourable Justice Jennifer Pfuetzner, delivered a message to the newly called lawyers.



Greeting from the Manitoba Bar Association by President Jessica Schofield.



CALL TO THE BAR continued...



Congratulations

2025
A. Montague Israels, QC Prize Recipient

Melinda Moch

The A. Montague Israels, Q.C. Prize is selected by a special Selection Committee and awarded annually to a student from the graduating class of the Bar Admission Course who demonstrates a sense of justice transcending technical competence. This award honours the memory of A. Montague Israels, Q.C. (1904-1973), recognizing those attributes that he valued and so well exemplified in his own life and career.

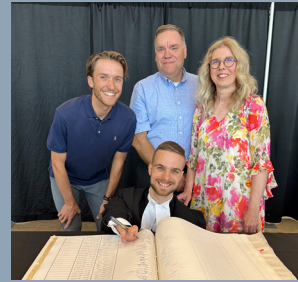
The award was presented by the Honourable Justice David Kroft.

[Learn more about this year's recipient](#)



CALL TO THE BAR continued...

Celebrating with Family, Friends and Colleagues



Enjoy a brief video highlighting the event.



Law Runs in the Family

A Lineage of Legal Minds



CALL TO THE BAR continued...

2025 MASS CALL TO THE BAR



Congratulations to the following new lawyers!

Abas, Jamal
Adegbite, Tamunobelem
Adeniyi, Temitayo
Adetona, Adedotun
Adjetey, Lance
Agindotan, Timothy
Agu, Chikodi
Agustin, Verlito
Akindiose, Opeyemi
Alkrzoun, Dima
Bell, Eliza
Bellefontaine, Holly
Brown, Avril
Bueckert-Dyck, Charlotte
Chahal, Anoop
Clayton, Amy
Corcoran, Lauren
Courtney, Samantha
Daniels, Arieana
Daza, Faith
DeFehr, Georgia
DeFehr, Jade
Dhingra, Abhinav
Dragne, Damian
Dyrda, Naomi
Ediger, Calvin
Efetobore, Obaro
Elbardisy, Mario

Enns, Chad
Epp, Eric
Escalera, Josh
Evans-Boudreau, Anna
Faingold, Kalanit
Foote, Bronwen
Furber, Kaylee
Gagnon, Eric
Geary, Aidan
Gendron, Robert
Gibson, Dominique
Gray, Brandon
Greenslade Lozinski, Seth
Griffin, Keelin
Groot, Scott
Hall, Ryan
Hodge, Victoria
Horbul, Jeremy
Hunt, Austin
Idiodemise, Ufuoma
Ismael, Mursal
James, Jolomi
Javra, Owen
Jok, Chian
Kane, Charlie
Kaur, Parminder
Kristjanson, Ashley
Lajoie, Chanelle

Lamari, Lou
Lavilla-Lount, April
Lee, Lewis
Légaré, Bradley
Leitold, Samantha
Lesiuk, Noah
Liu, Vicky
Maciel, Bruna
Madden, Caitlin
Mangako, Kenneth
Mbokani, Richard
McDonald, Kaylyn
Merrill, Kennedy
Moch, Melinda
Moudgil, Garima
Neal, Shelly
Nemy, David
Nichol, Kaitlin
Nnadi, Caroline
Nudler, Nicolas
Ofokansi, Ijeoma
Ogundare, Bisola
Olaoye, Olufemi
Opoku Gyemfi, Cornelia
Otto, Robyn
Oyebanji, Oluwatosin
Papoff, Justin
Patel, Shilpa

Penner, Rebecca
Peterson, Emily
Priebe, Tyson
Prince, Jessica
Ramirez, Michelle
Ramos-Pagat, Lesalie
Rees, Ashley
Reimer, Matthew
Richards, Raven
Robertson, Jamie
Scatliff, Noah
Schumacher, Ayden
Sharpe, Selene
Shymko, Jocelyn
Siklosi, Michael
Simpson, Megan
Sinclair, Shelby
Singer, James
St. Rose, Stacy-Ann
Stewart, Connor
Sutherland, Austin
Tannahill, Brett
Thomas, Alyssa
Uwitonze, Keza
Vanderhooft, Gelsomina
Venuto, Melina
Vercaigne, Devan
Wilfer, Kyle

CALL TO THE BAR continued...

Call to the Bar - Brandon, Manitoba

Congratulations to the following new lawyers who were called to the Bar in a special ceremony held in Brandon, Manitoba on June 16, 2025:

Reid Hunter
Jatinderpal Grewal
Damilola Olu-Aderonmu

Trent Sholdice presented the candidates to the Court.



Call to the Bar - Portage la Prairie, Manitoba



Congratulations to
Kassi Delorey
who was presented to the Court
by Barney Christianson, KC and
called to the Bar
in a special ceremony held in
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba
on June 18, 2025.



LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE:

Where to Send a Potential Client When You Can't Act for Them

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance

If you ever come in person to the Law Society's offices, you will be greeted by our friendly receptionist, Shari Lough. If you spend any time at all in our reception area, you will overhear her on the phone patiently informing callers that the Law Society cannot provide legal information or advice to members of the public and cannot refer members of the public to a lawyer. She will then provide them with the phone number and email address for the Law Phone-In and Lawyer Referral Program operated by the Community Legal Education Association.

These callers are sometimes annoyed or frustrated because a lawyer or law firm told them to call the Law Society for something the Law Society cannot do, but the Law Phone-In and Lawyer Referral Program operated by the Community Legal Education Association can.



**Community Legal
Education Association**

Law Phone-In and Lawyer Referral Program



We have [information about the Law Phone-In and Lawyer Referral Program](#) on the Law Society's website. The [Law Phone-In and Lawyer Referral Program webpage](#) gives detailed instructions on how to contact the program and what to expect.

So, the next time you are approached by a person you can not or do not want to act for or who needs some legal information or advice, tell them to contact The Law Phone-In and Lawyer Referral Service at 204-943-2382 or toll-free outside of Winnipeg 1-800-262-8800 or email community@communitylegal.mb.ca.

And if you would like to be placed on the [Lawyer Referral panel](#), the Lawyer Referral Program website tells you how to do that too.

The COAL Guide



The revised first edition of the Canadian Open Access Legal Citation Guide (the "[COAL Guide](#)") is now available.

The COAL Guide, created by volunteers, aims to create a citation guide that will better meet the needs of Canadian legal writers and researchers and will be accessible to everyone via an open access publishing model. A French version of this Guide, Guide canadien de la référence juridique en accès libre (a.k.a., RJAL), will be available in the near future.

This guide will help academics, legal professionals, and others cite legal documents and other sources of information. COAL/RJAL is also working on creating supporting materials, such as teaching slides and instructional videos, which can be found via coal-rjal.ca as they become available.

CHANGES COMING FOR TITLE INSURANCE

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance



Starting **October 1, 2025**, title insurers in Canada will be regulated by the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre (FINTRAC). This means that title insurers will now have to verify their clients and, because of their obligations under the *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act*, they will also be required to report suspicious transactions to FINTRAC.

What does this mean for you as a lawyer who arranges title insurance for your buyer-client?

Title insurers will now be asking you to enter into a written agreement on every title-insured transaction to be the title insurer's agent for the purpose of obtaining and recording the information the title insurer is now required to collect under FINTRAC. But before you agree to act as the title insurer's agent, you will need your buyer-client's fully informed consent since the information you'll be asked to provide is otherwise privileged and confidential. This means your client will have to be told that:

- the title insurer is required to submit reports to FINTRAC, including suspicious transactions reports;
- information about the client could be reported to FINTRAC by the title insurer as part of its reports; and
- FINTRAC discloses information it receives from reporting entities to law enforcement as it considers appropriate.

Expect to start receiving notices from title insurers soon. The Law Society of Manitoba is currently working on a formal notice for lawyers acting as agents for title insurers, giving some guidance on informing clients. Meanwhile, check out [this Notice](#) from the Law Society of B.C.

Do You Pay Your Practising Fees by Instalment? Next Payment is Due: *September 2, 2025*



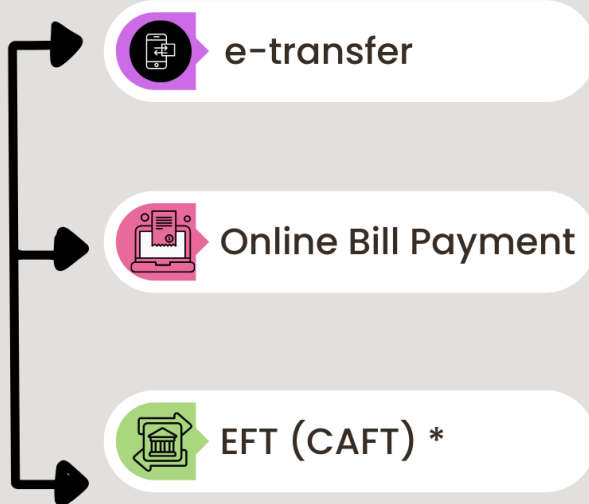
On August 1st, all lawyers who paid their practising fees by instalment received a reminder email about the upcoming payment which is due on or before **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**.

Check your email!
Your invoice is in the [Member Portal](#).

PAYMENT METHODS

Don't Delay! Avoid late fees!

Easy Ways to Pay Electronically



* Lawyers who pay practising fees or insurance by Pre-Authorized Debit referred to as CAFT (Customer Automated Funds Transfer) need to advise the Finance Department **at least four business days prior to the date you wish the payment to be withdrawn**. Under no circumstance will the Law Society withdraw funds from a lawyer/firm's bank account without express written consent (via email).



President's RECEPTION

Fort Garry Hotel
June 26, 2025





The Richard J. Scott Award



The Hon. Freda Steel, Karen Busby, Mary Scott

The Honourable Freda Steel presented Karen Busby **The Richard J. Scott Award** during the President's Reception on June 26th.

We were also honoured to have Mr. Scott's wife, Mary, join us for the presentation.

Health and Wellness Resource Library

Resources from the Law Society, Manitoba Blue Cross and other Partner Organizations

Digital Wellness Platform from Manitoba Blue Cross

www.wellness.mb.bluecross.ca

From one central location you can now access:

- Counselling support
- Relationship learning program
- Yoga and meditation program
- Sleep assessment
- Budgeting and financial self-directed courses
- And much more

For curated content, tips and resources to help YOU, start by taking a quick 10-minute [wellness assessment](http://www.wellness.mb.bluecross.ca).



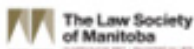
Learn More



Articling Program Assessment: Cross-Provincial Comparison

FULL REPORT

April 24, 2025



CROSS-PROVINCIAL INSIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Enhancing the Articling Experience and Entry Level Practice

In 2024, the Law Societies of Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia surveyed articling students, new lawyers, principals, mentors, and recruiters. The results are now available in a Cross-Provincial Comparison Report, highlighting key themes and Manitoba-specific findings on Training and Mentorship, Compensation, and Discrimination and Harassment.

Read the full report and learn more at [Manitoba Articling Program Review](#).



Inclusive Supervision in Articling

Practice Guidance from the Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor

Noelia Bernardo, The Law Society of Manitoba

Based on findings from the *2025 Cross Provincial Articling Assessment Report*

The Law Society often hears from students and principals when issues arise during articling — whether it's unclear expectations, limited feedback, or concerns about how someone is being treated. These situations can be complex, but they usually reflect the same underlying issue: **the quality of supervision matters.**

The [2025 Cross-Provincial Articling Report](#) highlights this. While many students feel supported, others — particularly those from equity-seeking groups — report feeling excluded or unsure how to raise concerns.

The Law Society doesn't manage the articling relationship, but we do offer confidential guidance on ethical and professional responsibilities. The tips provided in this resource are intended as a practical reminder for both students and principals.

Why This Matters

Supervision during articling isn't just about completing requirements — it's an opportunity to help future lawyers build skills, confidence, and professional judgment in a safe, respectful environment.

Done well, supervision helps ensure the articling experience is effective and inclusive. Done poorly, it can contribute to barriers, complaints, or risk for both the student and the principal.

FOR STUDENTS: WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND

YOU'RE NOT EXPECTED TO KNOW EVERYTHING

Ask questions. Clarify instructions. Request feedback. These are part of the learning process — not a sign of weakness.

IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR MORE STRUCTURE

If you're feeling lost or unsure, you can respectfully ask for more direction, feedback, or exposure to different work.

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

If something doesn't feel right, or you're unsure how to handle a situation, you can contact the Law Society for confidential guidance. You don't have to figure it out on your own.



FOR PRINCIPALS: PRACTICE TIPS

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Set expectations early. Talk about communication, feedback, timelines, and learning goals. Ask how your student learns best and what experience they bring.

BE INCLUSIVE ON PURPOSE

Extend invitations to client meetings, team calls, file reviews, and informal firm activities. Don't assume students know they're welcome — say it out loud.

GIVE REGULAR FEEDBACK

Even short, informal feedback is helpful. Silence can lead to confusion. Make feedback part of your regular routine.

CHECK IN PROACTIVELY

Students may not raise concerns unless invited to do so. A simple *"how's it going?"* can open the door to important conversations.

KNOW YOUR OBLIGATIONS

Principals are responsible under the Code (Rules 6.2-2 and 6.3) for providing meaningful supervision and creating a respectful, harassment-free environment. That includes watching for subtle forms of bias or exclusion — even if unintentional.



QUICK CHECKLIST FOR PRINCIPALS

- ☒ Clarify expectations early (goals, timelines, responsibilities, etc.)
- ☒ Include your student in meaningful work and team conversations
- ☒ Give feedback often — don't leave them guessing
- ☒ Check in about the articling experience
- ☒ Be open to hearing concerns
- ☒ Understand your ethical obligations



Questions?

Looking for Guidance?

If you're unsure how to handle a concern

Or just want to talk something through
We're here to help.

**All conversations are confidential
and supportive.**

CONTACT

Joan Holmstrom

Director, Competence

✉ jholmstrom@lawsociety.mb.ca

☎ 204-926-2017

Noelia Bernardo

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☎ 204-926-2019

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

When You are the Lawyer and a Director, Officer or Shareholder

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance



'The man who acts as his own lawyer has a fool for a client' is an old adage which may or may not be true but can certainly give rise to coverage issues. If you are going to act as your own lawyer on a transaction or in litigation, will your professional liability insurance cover you? Here are insurance questions to think about.

Acting for Yourself or for Your Firm – Are You Covered? NO!

If you are acting for yourself and you make a mistake, don't look to your professional liability insurance policy for coverage. The policy covers you for errors you make in providing professional services to **others**. When you act for yourself, you cannot make a claim against yourself.

The policy also excludes a claim against an insured made by the insured's law firm, so if you are acting for your firm and you make a mistake on that transaction or litigation, don't expect your professional liability insurance to cover you.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

When You are the Lawyer and a Director, Officer or Shareholder continued...

Acting as a Director or Officer of a Corporation - Are you covered? NO, but...

When you are acting as a director or officer of a corporation, you are not covered under the mandatory professional liability policy. That policy excludes coverage for lawyers acting as a director or officer of a corporation (other than as Law Society benchers or committee members). However, the Law Society does arrange separate directors' and officers' insurance for lawyers who serve as directors and officers of corporations. (For details of the Directors and Officers policy, see the Member Portal)

Acting for a Corporation where you are also a Director, Officer or Shareholder - Are you covered? That depends...

When you are wearing several hats, coverage depends on the facts.

Minority shareholder acting as lawyer

If you are a minority shareholder (as opposed to a controlling shareholder) in the corporation you are acting for, being a shareholder in the corporation is not in itself a bar to coverage. For instance, if you own a couple of shares in a chartered financial institution and that institution sues you for an error you made on a mortgage refinancing file, ownership of a few shares would not be an impediment to coverage.

Controlling shareholder acting as lawyer

If you are the controlling shareholder of a corporation and you are acting for that corporation in a transaction or litigation and you make an error, don't count on coverage. The question of whether you were providing professional services to others or really just acting for yourself would have to be examined. (Remember the corporate veil from law school?)

Director acting as lawyer

When a lawyer who is a director or officer of a corporation is asked to provide legal advice to the corporation, special care must be taken. Make sure everyone involved, yourself included, knows exactly what hat you are wearing. Clearly set out the capacity in which you are acting. If you are going to act as a lawyer when you also sit on the board, treat this client as you would any other – including having a retainer agreement setting out the legal services you will be providing (whether you provide those services pro bono or at your regular hourly rate or at a fixed price), putting your legal advice in writing, reporting to the client in writing, and placing memos on your file. You should also confirm at each step that your opinion is not offered as a director and absent yourself from directors' meetings or abstain from voting where appropriate. Also, bill the client as a lawyer and not by way of submitting an expense account as you might as a director or officer. Make it easy for everyone involved to understand your role, including your insurer when making coverage decisions.

You can act for yourself, your firm, and corporations where you are also a director shareholder or officer. However, don't assume you will have insurance coverage. The simple answer is 'It depends'.

Notarial Services vs Legal Services Can a Lawyer Ever Be “Just a Witness”?

Noelia Bernardo,
Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor



Notarial Services - Generally Speaking

Notarial or “commissioning” services are often described as ministerial acts - things like:

- Witnessing signatures
- Certifying copies
- Administering oaths or affirmations
- Notarizing affidavits or declarations

For a commissioner for oaths or the rare non-lawyer notary public, these are typically routine and don't involve legal advice.

But for **practising lawyers who have also registered as a Notary Public**, it's not that simple. Even when you're “just witnessing” or “only notarizing,” your professional and ethical obligations still apply.

More Than Just a Signature

If someone asks you to witness or notarize a document, you're not stepping out of your professional role - you are still a lawyer.

Even if no legal advice is provided, you may:

- Create a solicitor-client relationship (even briefly)
- Take on fiduciary duties (loyalty, confidentiality, competence)
- Be subject to all Law Society rules and requirements
- Face professional liability if something goes wrong



What You Should Be Asking Yourself

Before agreeing to notarize or witness, consider:

- Who is my client? Could there be more than one? Any conflicts?
- Why are they asking a lawyer rather than a non-lawyer notary or commissioner?
- Do I understand the nature of the transaction, and does the signer?
- Is the person vulnerable or unrepresented in a way that may require independent legal advice?
- Is the person who they say they are?
- Can I deliver the service competently and ethically within the requested scope?

If you can't answer these questions in a way that ensures you meet your obligations, you may need to reconsider whether to proceed.



Limited Scope Doesn't Mean Limited Obligations

There may be situations where you can notarize or witness without giving legal advice - and still comply with your professional obligations. In other cases, you may conclude the person needs some legal advice within a **limited scope retainer** before you can proceed. And sometimes, you may determine you cannot notarize or witness at all because you cannot do so in compliance with your ethical duties. Bottom line: you cannot "step out" of your professional role simply because you are only notarizing or witnessing.



Professional Obligations Still Apply

If you provide these services as a lawyer, you must:

- Open a file and document your work
- Conduct a proper conflict check
- Follow the Client Identification and Verification Rules
- Record fees or disbursements properly
- Keep records per Law Society requirements



Watch for Conflicts –Even in Small Matters

Common examples:

- Acting for both a lender and borrower in a private loan or mortgage
- Witnessing both parties' signatures in a transaction
- Having a personal or professional relationship that could impair impartiality

If there's a conflict - or even the appearance of one - it's best not to proceed.

Final Thought: When in Doubt, Pause Before You Sign

Requests for "just a signature" can seem quick and low risk, but if you're a practising lawyer, your professional obligations always apply.

Be sure you can:

- Carry out the work competently and ethically
- Clearly understand and define your role
- Step back when the situation is unclear or uncomfortable

Exercising caution protects you, your client, and the public interest.



Questions or Need Guidance?

If you have questions about your professional or ethical obligations when providing notarial or other services, or if you're unsure whether you can proceed in a particular situation, contact the Law Society for confidential practice guidance.

CONTACT US

Noelia Bernardo
Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor

☎ 204-926-2019
✉ practiceadvisor@lawsociety.mb.ca



If you need free and confidential advice to help you practise law more effectively, consider contacting Barney Christianson, KC, the Law Society of Manitoba's Practice Management Advisor. In addition to his many years of practice, first as a barrister and later as a solicitor in both small and large firms, Barney is also plugged into the network of North American practice management advisors. Barney collects and curates some of the best resources out there and shares them with us for Communiqué.

Pearls of Wisdom

Barney says:

Occasionally, a comment in a newspaper makes a great deal of sense. This is from *The Times UK* three years ago. "One fundamental way in which law firms can massively improve life for lawyers is to challenge the pervasive abuse of urgency... far too much is allowed to be declared urgent by both partners and clients when in reality most things are not."

Barney says three years of asking clients why it must be done next week has saved him from a lot of unnecessary "urgency". I totally agree.

Have Your Client Collect and Upload Their Own Documents

Your firm may already have a portal or other online document storage services, portals, or document management system to facilitate secure exchange of documents and information with clients. There is a simpler, but purpose-built, way to do it as reviewed by North Carolina Practice Management Director, Catherine Reach. Read her article [Collect Documents and Data With Pipe/Fill](#).

Better Uses for the Cap Locks Key

Do you keep hitting the Caps Lock key by accident? A Mac will tell you when you have done that. But if you are a Windows user, you can [change that Cap Lock key's function](#) to one that is likely more useful. You lose the Caps Lock feature but how hard is it to hold down the Shift key?

By the way, the Caps Lock feature was a hold-over feature from typewriter days, as is the use of underlining to highlight a heading or to add emphasis. Computers let you do that by *italics*, or **bold**, or ***bold italics***, **colour**, etc. Why are you using your computer like a typewriter?

Maybe You Don't Need That Extra Storage Space After All...

Windows creates temporary files in the background to keep everything running smoothly. But over time, these hidden files quietly pile up in system folders, slowly eating away at space you could use for photos, apps, or anything else that actually matters to you. [Here is some advice to get rid of that unnecessary clutter.](#)



A Warning About One Drive

Be careful: "Millions of OneDrive users who upload and interact with files through third-party Web apps may unknowingly be granting those apps full access to their entire OneDrive storage." [Read more on the risk.](#)

Form Letters and Great Practice Advice

Jim Calloway, the Oklahoma State Bar's fabulous practice management advisor is retiring after 28 years. The good news is that he will continue to publish his blog and is currently republishing some of his Greatest Hits from days gone by. They are as pertinent now as they were when they were published. [This one is about form letters.](#)

Whether you are just starting (or finishing) the practice of law, or you've been practicing a while and want to explore ways to do it better, contact Barney.

If you are looking for advice on how to make your practice more efficient and less aggravating, contact Barney directly.



204-857-7851



barney.christianson@gmail.com

Barney's practice management advice is free and confidential.



Doing what you love is
never a waste of time.

WELCOME SEMHAL!

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE LAW(YER) STRONG TEAM

A warm welcome to **Semhal Weldeargay**,
our NEW Administrative Coordinator!

Semhal is passionate about human rights and supporting those who have experienced trauma. A recent graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Rights from the University of Winnipeg, she has been actively volunteering with community organizations to support refugees displaced by war in Ethiopia.

Semhal is tech-savvy, tri-lingual, creative, and compassionate, and she looks forward to connecting with legal advocates as our program continues to grow. We're thrilled to have her on board!



STAY ACTIVE, CONNECTED & INSPIRED COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

☀️ Wellness Wednesdays

Follow us on LinkedIn & Instagram for weekly posts to help you thrive

🧘 Yoga Saturdays – Free First Class! (Saturdays Mornings)

Join the 9 AM class at Yoga Public, open to lawyers, articling students & law students.

🎉 Volunteer Celebration – August 27th 5 PM - 8 PM at Fort Gibraltar

🏃 Terry Fox Run - September 14th

👉 Join the movement - Training Dates ~ CPD hours available

August 22nd (in-person) 9 AM - 4 PM / September 19th & 26th (online) 9 AM - 12:30 PM



Building a thriving legal community

Visit us at lawyerstrong-mb.ca

Email us at support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca

PREP

IMPORTANT DATES

	Accelerated PREP 2025	Standard PREP 2025
PHASE THREE: Complete assignments Virtual Law Firm	COMPLETED	September 12, 2025 to January 23, 2026
DEADLINE TO PAY Final Tuition Instalment	COMPLETED	January 12, 2026
Complete Oral Capstone Evaluations as scheduled	COMPLETED	February 2, 2026 to February 6, 2026
Complete Written Capstone Evaluations as scheduled	By August 29, 2025	February 9, 2026 to February 13, 2026
Results	6 weeks after Capstone completed	6 weeks after Capstone completed

Workplaces should not be assigning any duties whatsoever to students which may compromise their ability to successfully complete the required activities in the two week Capstone period applicable to their PREP intake.

Further, students enrolled in Standard PREP must be given time as may be required to prepare the assignments which are submitted throughout Phase 3.

FALL PILOT ACCELERATED PROGRAM

CPLED is also adding, on a pilot basis, a second Accelerated PREP offering operating in the fall of 2025. The fall Accelerated Pilot schedule can be found [here](#).



2026

MASS CALL TO THE BAR CEREMONY

The 2026 Mass Call to the Bar Ceremony is scheduled to take place at the RBC Convention Centre on **Friday, June 19, 2026** at 9:00 am.

**For those eligible to be called to the Bar in late 2025,
a Call ceremony will be scheduled and you will be notified**

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES



Practising to Non-Practising:

May 31, 2025	Alexandra M. Philippot
June 1, 2025	Ronald P. Toews
June 2, 2025	Lauren N. Clemens
June 2, 2025	Nina Holatova
June 3, 2025	Stephanie C.P. Harland
June 4, 2025	Monica K. Muller
June 10, 2025	Janice A. Barclay
June 12, 2025	Manpreet Ashley Bains
June 13, 2025	Christian A. Vanderhooft
June 18, 2025	Kevin H.R. Munson
June 25, 2025	Navdeep S. Mann
June 28, 2025	Maury C. Stephensen
July 1, 2025	Micah J.Z. Zerbe
July 1, 2025	Laura H.T. Martens
July 1, 2025	Jake E. Harms
July 1, 2025	Tanya M. Kappo
July 1, 2025	Amy E. Robertson
July 5, 2025	Brittany K. Rankine
July 11, 2025	Hannah C. Taylor
July 11, 2025	Stacy-Ann A. St. Rose
July 14, 2025	Emmanuella Obeya
July 15, 2025	Kristen L. Reinbold
July 20, 2025	Michelle R. Ramirez
July 24, 2025	Nikolai N.P. Bola
July 25, 2025	Andrew J. Synyshyn
August 1, 2025	Daniel W. Chornopyski

Non-Practising to Practising:

June 2, 2025	Liam G. Black
June 2, 2025	Brooke A. Johnson
June 16, 2025	Sarah S.R. Thomson
June 17, 2025	Fiona H.K. Li
June 18, 2025	R. Kris Ade
June 20, 2025	Kassi L. Delorey
June 25, 2025	Sharon Singh
June 27, 2025	Mursal Ismael
July 1, 2025	Giovana Hessmann Dall'Acqua
July 1, 2025	Shane M. Paterson
July 4, 2025	Natalie S. Binguis
July 7, 2025	Cornelia Opoku Gyemfi
July 7, 2025	Emily C. Guglielmin
July 14, 2025	Temitayo E. Adeniyi
July 14, 2025	Adedotun S. Adetona
July 14, 2025	Lauren K. Corcoran
July 14, 2025	Calvin J. Ediger
July 14, 2025	Noah P. Lesiuk
July 14, 2025	Kennedy T. Merrill
July 14, 2025	Garima Moudgil
July 14, 2025	Gelsomina G. Vanderhooft
July 17, 2025	Emma S. Poyser
July 21, 2025	Jade E.W. DeFehr
July 21, 2025	Ross B. Leckow
July 21, 2025	Melissa M.O. Jenin
July 28, 2025	Jatinderpal S. Grewal
August 1, 2025	Cassandra J. Bueckert
August 1, 2025	Joelle M.F. Pastora Sala

[Member Forms Available Here](#)

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES continued...

New Admissions:

June 2, 2025	Bruna Q. Maciel
June 2, 2025	Verlito L. Agustin
June 2, 2025	Preetinder S. Bhandohal
June 2, 2025	Michael W. Siklosi
June 10, 2025	John W. Gailus
June 10, 2025	Courtenay A. Jacklin
June 11, 2025	Madeline J. Adam
June 11, 2025	Stephen L.J. Wallington
June 13, 2025	Drew D. Lambert
June 16, 2025	Reid Hunter
June 16, 2025	Damilola G. Alu-Aderounmu
June 16, 2025	Jatinderpal S. Grewal
June 18, 2025	Kassi L. Delorey
June 30, 2025	Emma S. Poyser
June 30, 2025	Eric M. Seniuk
June 30, 2025	Staci L. Blandford
July 1, 2025	Shakiru O. Bello
July 14, 2025	Emily C. Cherlet
July 17, 2025	Michael H. Martinez
August 1, 2025	Rowan V. Markesteyn
August 1, 2025	Raj Balwinder Singh

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Winnipeg: 204-786-8880
Toll-Free: 1-800-590-5553
Hearing-Impaired Line: 204-775-0586



**The Law Society
of Manitoba**

INCORPORATED 1877 | INCORPORÉ EN 1877

NOTICE OF DISBARMENT

Paul Sydney Vyamucharo-Shawa

By resolution of a Panel of the Discipline Committee of The Law Society of Manitoba, **PAUL SYDNEY VYAMUCHARO-SHAWA** was found guilty of professional misconduct. He was ordered to be disbarred and his name struck from the Rolls of Barristers and Solicitors of the Society.

August 25, 2025

Leah Kosokowsky
Chief Executive Officer

Issued: August 25, 2025



**The Law Society
of Manitoba**

INCORPORATED 1877 | INCORPORÉ EN 1877

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION Jack Edward Grieves

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Law Society Rule 2-88, **JACK EDWARD GRIEVES** is administratively suspended from practising law for failure to remit payment for his Professional Liability Claims Fund contribution.

August 6, 2025

Leah Kosokowsky
Chief Executive Officer

Issued: August 6, 2025

IN MEMORIAM

Frank Albert Gustav Johnson, who passed away on June 1, 2025 at the age of 78. Mr. Johnson received his call to the Bar on June 28, 1972. He practised primarily as a sole practitioner throughout his career and was a practising member at the time of his death.

John David Anderson, who passed away on June 10, 2025 at the age of 75. Mr. Anderson received his call to the Bar on June 30, 1977. He practised as a sole practitioner in Portage la Prairie for 15 years before leaving practice to pursue a career in education.

NOTICE OF BENCHERS' MEETING

The next regular meeting of the benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba will be held on:



Thursday, September 4, 2025



Elkhorn Resort, Clear Lake



1:00 p.m.

Members of the Law Society are encouraged to attend and participate in the deliberations of the governing body.



If you wish to attend a meeting via videoconference, contact Pat Bourbonnais at pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca.

Dates for the next meetings are as follows:

- October 30, 2025
- December 11, 2025
- February 5, 2026
- March 19, 2026
- May 14, 2026
- June 18, 2026

Agenda and meeting minutes are published on the website [here](#).

Fast Track Photo ID Cards



To gain access to the Law Courts Building in Winnipeg, most individuals must submit to the security screening process. Members of the legal profession have been extended the courtesy and privilege by the Province of Manitoba to enter the building through a separate entrance, without the attendant screening or searches. To use the lawyers' entrance, you are required to present your Fast Track Photo ID card to the Sheriffs' Officers on every occasion that you seek access to the building.

Fast Track Photo ID Cards are the property of the Law Society of Manitoba and expire annually on March 31st. If you attend the security entrance with an expired card, you will be requested to surrender your card to the Sheriff's Officers.

When requesting that you produce or surrender your ID card, Sheriff's Officers are simply doing their job and complying the directives they receive. Accordingly, they must be afforded courtesy and respect. Members who refuse to present their ID card, surrender their card or who become rude and belligerent to the Sheriff's Officers will be referred to the Law Society.

Programs

Western Bar

September 5 | 9:00 am – 3:00 p.m. | In-person

Register

Central Bar

September 12 | 9:00 am – 12:00 noon | In-person

Register

Reconciliation in Canada: From AJI to MMIWG2S+

September 26 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Hybrid

Register

New Offer to Purchase

October 7 | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Online

Save the Date

SPEAK UP: Being an Ally and an Active Bystander

October 9 | 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Online

Save the Date

Trust Conditions

October 23 | 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | In-person

Save the Date

Access to Justice Week Event

October 28 | 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Online

Save the Date

Pitblado Lectures: *Exploring the Rule of Law in Uncertain Times*

November 6 | Hybrid

Save the Date

Hot Topics in Real Estate

December 4 (In-person) | December 5 (Online)

Save the Date

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Discover our newest titles listed under these popular subject areas:

Access to Justice | Well-Being
Legal Research and Writing
Advocacy | Child Protection
Family Violence | Real Estate
Debtor and Creditor
Litigation | Wills and Estates

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Robson Hall, Moot Courtroom
224 Dysart Road, Winnipeg MB

 **REGISTER**

To register for online or in-person attendance, please scan the QR code.



**3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF
INDIGENOUS INAAKONIGWIN**

**RECONCILIATION IN
CANADA: FROM AJI
TO MMIWG2S+**

A collaborative legal community event held in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

This program offers 6 hours of continuing professional development and free to attend.





Upcoming **IMPORTANT DATES** At a Glance

SEPTEMBER 1 PAYMENT DUE

2025-2026 Practising Fee
(2nd Installment)
for Lawyers paying by instalment

SEPTEMBER 4 BENCHER MEETING

Elkhorn Resort, Clear Lake
1:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 5 and 6 WESTERN BAR and AGM WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 12 CENTRAL BAR CPD, LUNCH and GOLF DAY

OCTOBER 1 PAYMENT DUE

2025-2026 Practising Fee and Insurance
(2nd Instalment)
for lawyers called to the Bar on June 20, 2025



SEPTEMBER 30

September 30th is Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to recognize and reflect on the legacy of residential schools.



PRESIDENT

Kyle Dear

VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Mandzuik, KC

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Leah Kosokowsky

DEPUTY CEO

Rennie Stonyk

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