



Communiqué

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS

President's Report	2
CEO Report	4
Law Society Medal Recipient	6
Richard J. Scott Award Recipient	7
An Invitation to a Collective Act of Truth and Reconciliation	8
Court Attire Accommodations	10
ITL Mixer	11
Part-Time Practising Fees Survey	13
Pride Reception	14
Legal Help Centre in the Law Library	15

PRACTICE

CLIA: Is \$1M Enough?	19
Can You Verify Identity Over Zoom, Teams?	20
When Your Client has an AI JD	21
Practice Management Quick Tips	22

WELL-BEING

Law(yer) Strong: First Lawyer Well-Being Summit	23
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EDUCATION

Mass Call to the Bar Ceremony	24
Articling Recruitment Guidelines	25
PREP Important Dates	26

NOTICES

Membership Changes	28
Notice of Benchers' Meeting	29
In Memoriam	32

FEATURE:



WITHDRAWING AS COUNSEL: What You Can (And Can't) Say

16

RESOURCES

CPD Education Centre	32
Important Dates to Note	33





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

KEN MANDZUIK, KC

What's New

**An Invitation to a
Collective Act of Truth
and Reconciliation**

**Court Attire
Accommodations**

**Legal Help Centre Pop-Up
Office in the Law Library**

**Practice Management
Quick Tips**

I am as grateful as I am fortunate to bring my first message as president of the Law Society of Manitoba. We live in interesting times, with marked infringements on independent regulation to the west of us, evisceration of myriad norms to the south of us, and scandalous attacks on the rule of law and on lawyers in our own legislature. The purpose of the Law Society is defined in legislation: to uphold and protect the public interest in the delivery of legal services with competence, integrity, and independence. An independent bar is part of the rule of law. Without an independent bar, there is no independent bench. Without an independent bar and bench, there is no rule of law. Lawyers must fearlessly act for their clients, whether in a house deal or protecting Charter rights in proceedings taken by the state. Fighting for the rule of law is not about fighting for turf or protecting our self-interest—it is part of our legislated mandate. The public is best served and best protected by ensuring the rule of law is robust.

There are several ways the Law Society is doing this. Ours was the only law society that intervened in the challenge to British Columbia's changes to their constating legislation. The Chief Justice of the British Columbia Supreme Court confirmed that an independent bar is an unwritten constitutional principle. He stopped short of finding self-government was constitutionally guaranteed, but the BCCA or SCC may see things differently. The court did note the Supreme Court acknowledged self-government was created in the public interest.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued...

The "Rule of Law" remains amorphous, even for lawyers. It does not have the same innate appeal to the public as, say, shiny happy puppies. Our deputy CEO, Alissa Schacter, brought the idea of an education and advocacy campaign to CEO, Leah Kosokowsky, and proposed taking it to the benchers. With antelopean grace and speed, Alissa and Leah worked with societies across the country, and the "[Ours to Protect](#)" project was born. The campaign is an overwhelming success, with tens of millions of views and engagements across platforms. It is moving into the third phase, which is education of youth. The appetite for this kind of initiative extends beyond our borders, with international law societies looking to run their own campaigns (with one nation facetiously suggesting copying our videos and just superimposing their own flag over top of ours).

Educating the public and protecting the rule of law's many facets is protecting the public. This is part of our remit.

While the Law Society and its benchers remain nimble to address inevitable surprises, we continue with work on our strategic plan, with promising things coming on access to justice. The Law Society staff is remarkably capable and dedicated to their jobs. They have passion and initiative that benefit not only the public, but also the lawyers that serve the public. Over the course of my year, I am hoping to meet with as many managing partners or heads of legal departments as I can, in and out of Winnipeg, to see if the benchers or Law Society can do something better or different (sneak preview: we are in the early stages of reviving the intensive advocacy course). Happy, educated, efficient lawyers provide timely and effective services to their clients.

I am looking forward to my year, and it is a privilege to serve. I am grateful to have on the executive Kyle Dear as past president, the disarmingly bright Sharyne Hamm as vice-president, lay bencher Pat Fortier, as well as magical staff in Leah and Alissa. The bencher election had a large slate and turnout; our table is strong, our future is bright. I am happy to hear from anyone at any time to discuss the Law Society's work (or nearly anything else). You can find me at kmandzuik@traditionlaw.ca or 204-947-6805.



OURS TO PROTECT

JOIN THE MOVEMENT.

Help amplify these messages by engaging with the campaign.

#OursToProtect is brought to you by a coalition of Canadian law societies.

To learn more visit ourstoprotect.ca.

[@ourstoprotectca](https://www.instagram.com/ourstoprotectca)

Follow, Like, Share and Subscribe



YouTube



CEO'S MESSAGE

LEAH KOSOKOWSKY



The benchers received a report on the performance results of the paid media spend on the national Rule of Law Campaign...

The Law Society's bencher table is comprised of more than 12 elected benchers. It also includes six public representatives (lay benchers) and four appointed lawyer benchers in addition to the Past-President, the Dean of Robson Hall and one articling student bencher.

In each election year, the Nominating Committee receives and reviews applications for the appointed lawyer bencher positions and makes recommendations to the benchers regarding appointments. In 2026, the Law Society received 22 applications for the four appointed lawyer bencher positions, many of whom were excellent candidates. While not all applicants could be appointed, many will bring their skills and dedication to the Law Society through committee membership. I am pleased to advise that **Tim Kurbis** and **Rhea Majewski** have been re-appointed to second terms as benchers and I welcome **Rob Fleischaker** and **Ayo Olunlade** to the bencher table.

I also am very pleased to report that the benchers resolved to re-appoint the outstanding group of six incumbent lay benchers for an additional two-year term. I extend a warm welcome-back to **Gordon Daman, Patrick Fortier, Tehani Jainarine, Terry Jaenen, Carmen Nedohin** and **Deanna Wilson**.

Rounding out the table are **Dr. Richard Jochelson**, who has been reappointed as Dean of the Law School, Past-President, **Kyle Dear** and articling student bencher, **Kirsten Nynych**, who will remain with us until September when her successor is elected.

CEO's MESSAGE continued...

At the May benchers meeting, Carmen Nedohin completed her two-year term as the Law Society's Officer-at-Large. Carmen's sage advice, sound judgment and fantastic sense of humour will be missed within the executive. However, I am pleased to welcome **Patrick Fortier**, whom the benchers resolved to appoint for the next term and who will be an excellent addition to the executive team.

At the May 14th benchers meeting, translated oaths for the Call to the Bar Ceremony and for new benchers were approved. Both will receive their first test runs in June.

Although the Law Society is not generally in the business of making awards, two very special awards were approved at the meeting. First, the 2026 recipient of the Richard J. Scott Award is **Professor John Irvine** who has taught the foundational topics of Property Law or Torts to nearly every graduate of Robson Hall in the last 50 years. Secondly, the inaugural recipient of the Law Society Medal, dedicated to an individual for outstanding service to and on behalf of the Law Society is **Barney Christianson, KC**. Both worthy honorees will be presented with their awards at the President's Reception in June.

The benchers received a report on the performance results of the paid media spend on the national Rule of Law Campaign, which by all accounts, was extremely successful, with broad reach nationally and internationally. Phase III of the campaign is underway, with research on the knowledge, awareness and concerns of Canada's youth, and planning for a virtual summit in June, all of which will assist to inform the curriculum which will be developed for the education of youth on civics and the rule of law in Canada.

The Equity Committee's work continues in respect of establishing minimum compensation for articling students and also with the prospect of making the part-time practising fees pilot project a permanent offering to those with child care and medical care responsibilities.


The benchers received a monitoring report on the work of the Complaints Resolution Department which has experienced a measurable increase in both complaints received and querulant complainant conduct. Work is underway to enhance policies and communications for complainants regarding the scope of the Law Society's jurisdiction.


Finally, the benchers received a message from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation regarding their capital campaign to build the new centre on the University of Manitoba campus. The benchers are considering whether or not to make a contribution to advance the educational initiatives of the Centre out of the statutory grant received from the Manitoba Law Foundation, which is restricted to educational endeavours.

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All contacts are confidential

 204-201-1764

 support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca

 www.lawyerstrong-mb.ca

The Law Society Medal Recipient Bjorn (Barney) Christianson, KC

Congratulations to Barney Christianson, the inaugural recipient of the Law Society Medal, an award established by the benchers to honour excellence in quality of service advising, representing or serving the Law Society, exceptional service on behalf of the Law Society, enhancing the role of the Law Society, governance of the profession, and outstanding, conspicuous, sustained or dedicated excellence in the practice of law as well as service or contributions on behalf of the legal profession and other organizations.



Mr. Christianson began volunteering with the Law Society 35 years ago, first as a committee member, then as a bencher and finally as an executive member, serving as President in 1999. At the conclusion of his tenure, Barney took on the role of Manitoba's council representative at the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and, as a life bencher, Barney continues to sit on the Discipline Committee.

Since 2007, Barney has served as the Law Society's Practice Management Advisor, assisting members on practice issues ranging from starting an office to retirement and everything in between. He also is a frequent contributor to the Communiqué with practice management tips and advice.

Throughout his tenure, Barney has managed a busy and wide-ranging legal practice in Portage la Prairie, where he also is a dedicated volunteer, both as a board member for various organizations and providing pro bono legal advice to a women's shelter.

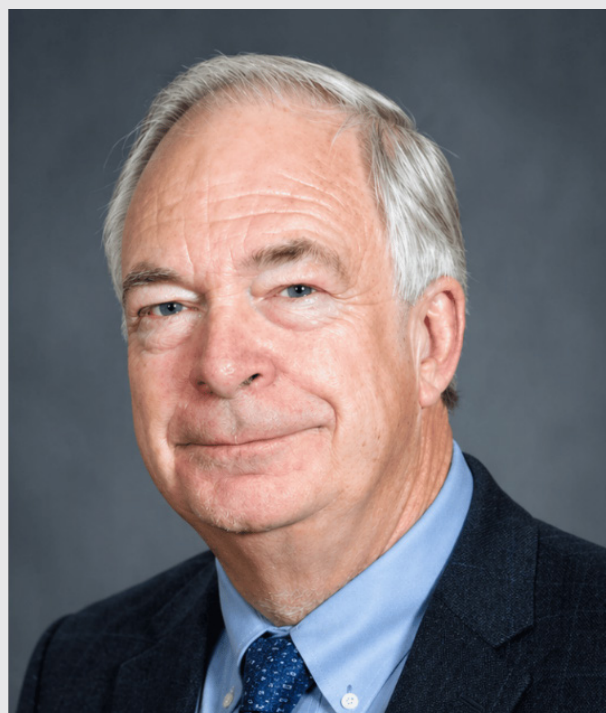
The award will be presented to Mr. Christianson on Thursday, June 18th at the President's Reception.

Richard J. Scott Award Recipient Professor John Irvine

Congratulations to Professor John Irvine who was selected to receive the Richard J. Scott Award for 2026. The award was created in 2013 in honour of Richard J. Scott, former Chief Justice of Manitoba and is awarded annually to an individual who advances the rule of law and contributes to a strong and independent legal profession through advocacy, litigation, teaching, research, writing or mentoring.

For more than five decades, Professor Irvine has contributed to the strength and independence of the legal profession in Manitoba through his teaching, scholarship and mentorship for generations of lawyers. He has taught the foundational courses of torts, property law and legal systems and Manitoba's bar and bench include countless lawyers, jurists and judges whose earliest understanding of what it means to think carefully, argue responsibly and approach law as a public trust was shaped in Professor Irvine's classroom.

Professor Irvine's published works reflect sustained engagement with important questions in tort law, property law and medical law. His scholarship has contributed to legal understanding not only within the academy, but also among professionals concerned with how law structures responsibility, fairness, and institutional accountability.



The award will be presented to Professor Irvine on Thursday, June 18th at the President's Reception.

More information about the award and past recipients
can be found here:

[**Richard J. Scott Award**](#)

An Invitation to a Collective Act of Truth and Reconciliation

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

Law is essential to finding truth. It is a necessary part of realizing reconciliation.

- Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, volume 8



Born from the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) safeguards the records, statements, oral histories, and sacred materials entrusted to the TRC by residential school Survivors and their families. These truths form the sacred heart of the NCTR's work.

The NCTR educates Canadians on the profound injustices inflicted on First Nations, Métis and Inuit by the forced removal of children to attend residential schools and the widespread abuse suffered in those institutions. They work to not only preserve the record of these human rights abuses but also promote continued education and understanding on the living legacy and of residential schools.

The legal community played a significant role in key aspects of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, and these legal precedents continue to help shape the future. As lawyers we know how important records and documentation are – the understanding, preservation, and protection of the truths of the residential school system are crucial to making sure this never happens again.

AN INVITATION TO A COLLECTIVE ACT OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION continued...

A National Legacy Project

The NCTR is a globally unique site of national conscience: the NCTR's Archival Collection has been inscribed into UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register. Since its establishment in 2015, the NCTR has operated from a temporary location on the University of Manitoba campus - a space long outgrown by the scope and significance of its collection.

As Justice Murray Sinclair framed it:

"The work of Reconciliation is the work of generations. It is vitally important that the voices of Survivors can continue to guide us on this national journey. Their statements, and other records of our history, must be safeguarded with love and respect. And they must continue to be shared in ways that move Canadians to action. This is what a permanent home for the NCTR can mean for our children and grandchildren and for generations yet to come."

With a foundational \$60 million contribution from the federal government, and land returned by the University of Manitoba as an act of reconciliation, the NCTR, in partnership with the University, has embarked on a campaign to secure the funds needed to build a permanent home. The new home will be located here in Winnipeg in the heart of Treaty One Territory, homeland of the Red River Métis, and home to many Inuit. Construction is planned to begin in 2027, with doors opening in 2029. Over 90% of the \$100 million funding goal has been raised.

You can learn more at:

[NCTR-Permanent-Legacy-Jan2025.pdf](#)



We invite the legal community to be part of this national legacy project, as a concrete and meaningful demonstration of our collective commitment to Truth, Justice and Reconciliation.

COURT ATTIRE ACCOMMODATIONS - *A Reminder for the Profession*

NOELIA BERNARDO, Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor

For a number of years now, the Court of Appeal of Manitoba, the Court of King's Bench of Manitoba and the Provincial Court of Manitoba have all had notices in place confirming that counsel may depart from strict court attire requirements where necessary by reason of maternity or disability.

The notices vary slightly because court attire requirements differ depending on the court. For example, gowns are not required in the Provincial Court of Manitoba, although counsel may wear them. But the common point is simple: modified attire is permitted where necessary for maternity or disability reasons, provided it remains dark in colour and in keeping with court decorum.

The notices also provide that counsel may advise the court clerk, either orally or by note before the opening of court, that they are appearing in modified attire in accordance with the applicable notice.



The notices can be found here:

- o [Court of Appeal of Manitoba - Notice re Court Attire](#) (Feb. 7, 2017)
- o [Court of King's Bench of Manitoba - Notice re Court Attire](#) (Nov. 26, 2020; replaced Feb. 10, 2017 notice)
- o [Provincial Court of Manitoba - Notice re Attire for Counsel](#) (Feb. 7, 2017)

This may also be a good opportunity for lawyers to spend a few minutes reviewing the courts' practice directions and notices generally. There are often practical answers to questions many lawyers quietly wonder about.

Lawyers who are unsure how to approach a practice, ethics or equity issue related to court attire, accommodation or professional obligations are welcome to contact me for confidential guidance.

Questions? Looking for Guidance?

Depending on the nature of the question, lawyers may contact PracticeAdvisor@lawsociety.mb.ca or EquityAdvisor@lawsociety.mb.ca, or reach me directly at 204-926-2019.

THIRD ANNUAL ITL MIXER



The Law Society was pleased to host the third annual Internationally Trained Lawyers Mixer on May 19th in partnership with the Manitoba Bar Association.

The event brought together internationally trained lawyers, NCA candidates, students in the University of Manitoba's Internationally Trained Lawyers Program, articling students, practising lawyers and others interested in the path to practice in Manitoba for an evening of conversation and connection.

The evening was moderated by Chidera Anadi-Mbanefo, Co-Chair of the MBA Internationally Trained Lawyers Section. Attendees also heard from Verlito Agustin of Agustin Law Office, Adedayo Adamolekun of Manitoba Prosecution Services, and Daniel Cheung of Lawyers Financial, who shared remarks and practical guidance for those navigating the path to practice in Manitoba.

We also thank Laurelle Harris, Director of ITL, Equity and Transformation at the University of Manitoba, for generously sharing her remarks with us when she was unable to attend at the last minute.

Events like this help create informal opportunities for internationally trained lawyers and internationally educated law students to meet others in the profession, ask questions, share experiences and build relationships. They also remind us how important it is for internationally trained members of the legal community to feel seen, welcomed and connected as they work toward practice in Manitoba.



Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success.



CALL *to the* BAR

Friday, June 19, 2026
9:00 a.m.

RBC Convention Centre



Members of the profession are encouraged to attend and welcome our newest members.

If you would like to be a part of the procession of robed members and be seated along side fellow members, please advise when placing your ticket request.



For tickets, contact articling@lawsociety.mb.ca



Part-Time Practising Fees Survey

Deadline: Monday, June 15, 2026

The Law Society's part-time practising fees pilot program is scheduled to end on March 31, 2027. To help determine the future of the program and its criteria, we would like to hear from you.

The initiative was introduced to help reduce the rates of attrition of lawyers from private practice. It aimed to promote greater equity, diversity, and inclusion in Manitoba's legal profession by providing flexibility to lawyers with caregiving responsibilities for children or other family members, as well as those with their own illness or disability.

Practising and non-practising lawyers, as well as articling students, are invited to complete this short, 10-minute survey by **Monday, June 15, 2026**.

As a thank you for your time, at the end of the survey you can enter to **win a complimentary registration** to any Law Society of Manitoba CPD program (valid for one year; some exclusions may apply).

[Click here to start the survey](#)

PRIDE RECEPTION

Continuing a Manitoba Legal Community Tradition

On May 27, members of Manitoba's legal profession gathered at the Law Society of Manitoba for this year's Pride Reception, hosted in partnership with the Manitoba Bar Association's SOGIC Section.

The reception was very well attended, with lawyers, law students, legal organizations, and allies coming together for an evening of connection, conversation, and community.

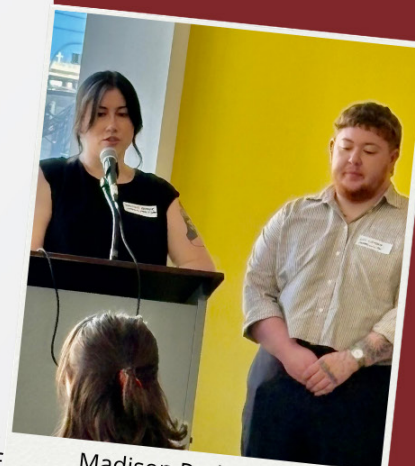
The event has always been about more than marking Pride Week. It is a space created within the legal profession to recognize and support gender, sexual and relationship diverse members of the legal community, and to acknowledge the importance of visibility, belonging, and allyship in the profession.

Law Society President Ken Mandzuik, KC provided remarks on behalf of the Law Society. Remarks were also shared by MBA SOGIC Co-Chairs Lou Lamari and Madison Parker, who spoke about the continuing importance of the event and the role SOGIC plays in supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ members of Manitoba's legal community.

The Pride Reception has its roots in an event first organized by MBA SOGIC in 2010. What began as a SOGIC-led community gathering has grown into a long-standing Pride Week tradition, now jointly supported by the Law Society and the Manitoba Bar Association.

History matters. The continued success of the reception is a reminder that community does not happen by accident. It is built over time, through the efforts of people who create space, extend invitations, show up, and keep the conversation going.

Thank you to MBA SOGIC, the Manitoba Bar Association, and everyone who attended this year's reception and helped carry this tradition forward.



Madison Parker (left) and Lou Lamari (right)



Ken Mandzuik, KC (left) and Stacey Soldier (right)





Legal Help Centre in the Law Library

Legal Help Centre will have a pop-up office at **Manitoba Law Library** to connect self-represented individuals with the legal and social services that best fit their needs.

Every Monday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
331 - 408 York Avenue

June 1 - August 24, 2026

eLex

This is a monthly newsletter available to all members of the Law Society of Manitoba. It provides a quick summary of the state of the law in Manitoba, summarizing the latest decisions, the status of legislation, and selected articles of interest to the practising bar.

To learn more visit: lawlibrary.ca/elex/.

Withdrawing as Counsel: What You Can (and Can't) Say

Based on R v. Cunningham, 2010 SCC 10

NOELIA BERNARDO, Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor

When a lawyer needs to withdraw, it can feel uncomfortable to stand in court and explain why. As the Supreme Court explained in *R. v. Cunningham*, the less a lawyer says - the better. The Court recognized that protecting client confidentiality sometimes means keeping explanations to a minimum.

The key is to protect privilege while giving the court only the limited information it needs to consider your request.



What the Case Said

The Supreme Court confirmed that:

- Judges do have discretion to refuse withdrawal - but only in rare cases where allowing it would cause serious harm to the administration of justice, for example, significant delay or prejudice.
- A court's role is to protect the integrity of its process, not to discipline lawyers.
- Oversight by both the court and the law society serves different but complementary purposes.

In short, courts can say no - but only as a last resort.



What You Can Say

Keep it short and neutral. The Court noted that judges should generally accept counsel's explanation at face value.

You can usually state:

- You are seeking to withdraw for ethical reasons or, where appropriate, because of non-payment of fees.
- You have given reasonable notice and taken steps to minimize any prejudice or delay.
- The client terminated your retainer. Being discharged by a client is not privileged information.

That's all that's needed.



What You Shouldn't Say

Don't:

- Explain why the withdrawal is required for ethical reasons.
- Describe client conduct, disagreements, or advice given.
- Refer to financial or personal details about the client.
- Disclose non-payment of fees where that information may be relevant to the issues in dispute or may prejudice the client.

Even well-intentioned explanations can cross the line - brevity protects privilege.

If you are required to bring a motion to withdraw, keep your supporting affidavit factual and neutral. It should not contain any details that would otherwise be subject to solicitor-client privilege.



A Note of Caution:

Cunningham does not mean that non-payment of fees can be disclosed in every case.

The Court recognized that disclosure of non-payment may not be privileged where it is unrelated to the merits and will not prejudice the client. In other contexts, however, disclosure of non-payment may be relevant to the merits or may prejudice the client. For example, in a family law matter involving support, property, costs or other financial issues, information about a client's ability or inability to pay legal fees may matter.

In those situations, privilege or confidentiality concerns may arise. A lawyer may need to use more general wording, such as stating that there has been a breakdown in the retainer relationship, so long as that is accurate and does not mislead the court into thinking there is a separate ethical basis for withdrawal.

The Balancing Act

- Law societies oversee lawyer conduct and professional standards.
- Courts ensure proceedings are fair and efficient.

Each plays a part in overseeing withdrawal. In practice, courts do not require lawyers to disclose privileged or confidential client information when deciding an application to withdraw. The law society, however, may request relevant information when investigating a complaint about a lawyer's withdrawal - and in doing so, assumes the same duty to maintain confidentiality.

Feature

WITHDRAWING AS COUNSEL continued...

Key Takeaway

When considering or applying to withdraw, less is more:

- Comply with the manner of withdrawal rules in the *Code of Professional Conduct* (3.7-8 and 3.7-9), and Court of King's Bench Rules 15.03 and 15.04, including giving reasonable notice and seeking leave of the court where required.
- State only the basic reason where it is appropriate to do so.
- Do not describe non-payment as an ethical reason unless there is a separate ethical issue. If disclosing non-payment may prejudice the client or relate to the merits, consider whether more general wording, such as a breakdown in the retainer relationship, is appropriate and accurate.
- Never include confidential or privileged information - whether in court, in your motion materials, or in supporting evidence.
- Be especially careful where the client's financial circumstances may be relevant to the issues in the case.

If you're unsure how much to say, contact the Practice Advisor for confidential guidance before filing documents or appearing.

For more information: see the Law Society's Education Centre resource: [Withdrawal of Legal Services](#).

Questions? Looking for Guidance?



If you have questions about these issues or would like to discuss how they apply in a particular situation, please contact:

Noelia Bernardo,
Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor

☎ 204-926-2019

✉ practiceadvisor@lawsociety.mb.ca

"I'm always glad to talk through scenarios or provide guidance as you navigate your professional responsibilities." ~ Noelia

Is \$1M enough? Your CLIA coverage, renewed.



For many lawyers, base professional liability coverage is \$1M per claim. In some cases, claims can exceed that limit — particularly as transaction values and exposures continue to grow.

Excess coverage is available through the **Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association (CLIA)**, a reciprocal insurer established by Law Societies to serve the legal profession. Coverage is available **up to \$35M per claim**.

WHAT YOUR COVERAGE INCLUDES

Errors & Omissions
\$1M per claim
\$2M annual aggregate

Cyber insurance
\$100K-\$250K
Mandatory, varies by type

Do you need more?

When assessing your need, think about the firm — not just yourself:

- Size and frequency of large transactions
- Real estate, family law, wills & estates (rising property values = rising exposure)
- Former associates or partners still covered under your policy
- Liability that grows over time — including after you retire

Retiring? Your liability doesn't retire with you. Retired inactive lawyers receive a **25% discount** on excess E&O. Contact service@clia.ca to explore options.

HOW TO RENEW

Existing members

1. You'll receive your **renewal email** with your prior year application.
2. **No changes?** Simply click Pay in the email to renew
3. **Have changes?** Log in, update your application, then submit and pay.
4. Submit **before end of June**. There is **no grace period** — a lapse in coverage leaves you exposed for any claims arising during the gap.

Key Dates
May 11 — Portal opens (existing & new members)
End of June — Deadline for existing members
End of July — Deadline for new members (prorated after; cyber cannot be prorated)

New to excess coverage?

Applications open May 11 and are accepted until end of July. Create an account at the CLIA website to get started.

Learn more: clia.ca | Questions? service@clia.ca



CLIA is a reciprocal insurance exchange established in 1988, operating across Canadian jurisdictions. It exists to serve the legal profession — not shareholders.

Can You Verify Identity Over Zoom, Teams, Etc.?

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance

Anti-Money Laundering Rules and Client Verification

If you are wondering if you can verify the identity of a client remotely over Zoom, Teams or similar video conferencing platforms, the answer is NO. Although remote verification was briefly allowed during the height of COVID 19, verifying the identity of a client by looking at the client's government issued photo ID on your screen does not meet the Anti-money laundering requirements.

However, you can use reliable authentication technology to verify your client's government photo ID. Specialized software matches the ID to the image or video of your client. The Digital ID and Authentication Counsel of Canada (DIAC) has a registry of certified vendors of authentication technology. Several of these vendors have partnered with familiar Title Insurers. While the Law Society does not endorse or certify vendors of any software, including, authentication technology services, [DIAC's Certified Service Providers Registry](#) is a good place to start your search for suitable authentication technology.

Other Verification of ID options

If you aren't meeting the client in person and don't want to use technology to verify identity, there are other options:

1. Previous verification by you or someone in your office.
2. [Verification by agent](#).
3. Credit check method.
4. Two trusted pieces of information from a reliable source. (Rule 5-121(1)(c)).

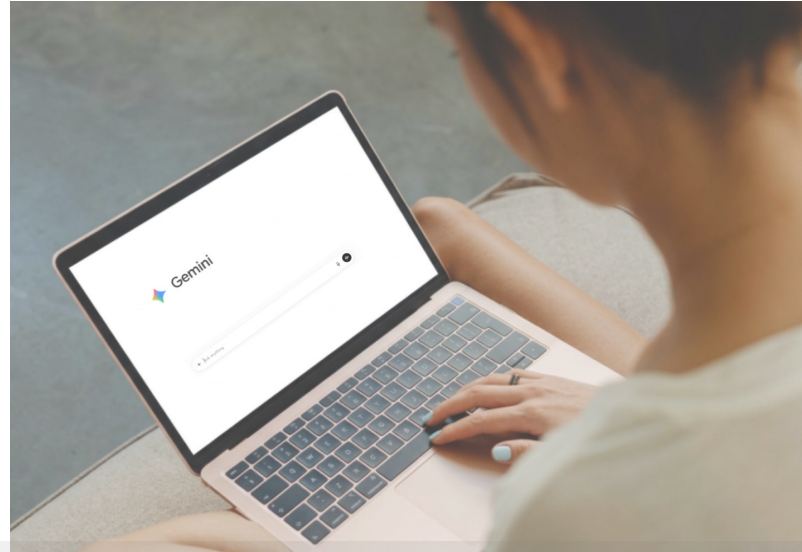
For a quick refresher on the current Anti-Money Laundering Rules, check out the [Anti-Money Laundering Resource Library](#), including three free short courses on Verification issues (eligible for CPD credit), as well as [Worksheets and checklists](#) and other handy resources.

And don't forget your obligation to collect and document information about the source of the funds.

When Your Client has an AI JD

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance

Although much has been written on whether and how lawyers should use (or not use) AI in their practice, lawyers are also dealing with clients' use of AI. For thoughtful advice on what to do when clients show up with AI generated work-product in hand, check out Will Graebe's May 21, 2026 Lawyers Mutual article, [The Rise of the AI-Assisted Client](#). Lawyers Mutual is a malpractice insurance company for lawyers in North Carolina and regularly publishes excellent risk management resources worth reading.



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](#).



[Learn More](#)

Practice Management Quick Tips

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance

A well- managed law practice allows lawyers to do the real work of lawyering more effectively, with fewer complaints and professional liability claims and less headaches. Barney Christianson, KC, the Law Society's Practice Management Advisor, provides free and confidential information and advice to Manitoba lawyers on Practice Management issues. Barney has collected the following useful resources to share with you.

Client Intake

Do you have a documented client intake system? Are you using a client intake system that hasn't been reviewed for years? If an intake system is not efficient, it is a bottleneck that will limit your firm's growth. [This might help you stream-line that system.](#)

Hiring the right person

Hiring the right person has always been a challenge for lawyers – too often we rush to get a “bum in the seat” and regret it later. There is a significant cost to any law firm in hiring the wrong person. This article can at least improve your odds of getting what you need and avoiding the cost of a bad hire: [The Hidden Cost of a Bad Hire in a Small Law Firm.](#)

Emergency Succession Plans for Solo Lawyers

Are you a solo practitioner? If you don't have one already, you absolutely need an emergency succession plan. The Americans call it a Red Folder. These are five steps to keep in mind. [Every Lawyer Needs a 'Red Folder': 5 Things That Keep Your Firm Alive Without You.](#)

Or check out the Law Society of Manitoba's own publication on [Absences, Contingency and Succession Planning.](#)

If you are looking for free, confidential advice on how to make your practice more efficient and less aggravating, contact Barney directly at 204-857-7851 or by email at barney.christianson@gmail.com.





First Lawyer Well-Being Summit

Twenty-Eight members of Manitoba's diverse legal community from north, south, east and west, gathered for our first ever Lawyer Well-Being Summit, at the Elkhorn Lodge in Riding Mountain Park May 7-8. Members from the Manitoba Bar Association, the Law Society of Manitoba, board members, volunteers, senior and junior lawyers across practice areas, big and small firms, in house counsel; public law, and law students representing our diverse legal community all showed up to talk about what we can do to improve our professional culture and well-being.

The dynamic energy of the group created a "think tank", generating great ideas on how we can make tangible changes to move our profession forward towards one where lawyers thrive professionally and personally.

Stay tuned for an exciting year of new programs that arise from this gathering: Lawyer Well-Being Podcast; Forums to Connect & Share Stories; Lawyer Mental Health Education; Workshops; and strengthening of Strategic Partnerships with leaders, law firms, legal organizations, and Robson Hall law school.

There is an appetite for change!

Retired Lawyer Coffee Circle: Meets Monthly (3rd Thursday of each Month)

Next Meeting: June 18th at 10 am - The Forks Market (2nd flr.)

August 14th - Full-Day Online Suicide Prevention course with Glenn Schroeder

Free Registration contact admin@lawyerstrong-mb.ca to sign up!

*Volunteer training also offered in August.

Mentorship Hub: 5 groups – 6 monthly meetings

- Criminal law
- Family law
- Civil litigation & Conflict Resolution
- Practice Management – Work/life goals, alignment
- Legal Research and Job Creation



Progress. Support. Guidance. Every month. We are making a difference and creating bridges and connections in our profession. Sign up for the next round! First of its kind in Canada!

See our [website](#) or subscribe to our [newsletter](#) for news and events.

Join the Movement!

MASS CALL TO THE BAR CEREMONY

Friday, June 19, 2026

JOAN HOLMSTROM, Director - Competence

The 2026 Mass Call to the Bar Ceremony will take place at the **RBC Convention Centre** on **Friday, June 19, 2026** at **9:00 am**. We expect 95 candidates to be presented to the Court at that time. Members of the profession are encouraged to attend and welcome our newest members.

Tickets can be obtained by contacting articling@lawsociety.mb.ca. If you would like to be a part of the procession of robed members and be seated alongside fellow members, please advise when placing your ticket request.

An additional six candidates are being called to the Bar in centres outside of Winnipeg with four being called in Brandon on June 12th, one being called in Portage la Prairie on June 25th and one being called in Dauphin on July 29th.

Of the 101 being presented to the Court in June and July, 68 are graduates of the Robson Hall Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. Twenty-four are graduates of law programs outside of Canada who sought accreditation of their foreign degrees from the National Committee on Accreditation administered by the Federation of Law Societies. These 24 obtained their degrees in countries such as the Philippines, the United Kingdom, India, Nigeria, and the United States. The nine other candidates are graduates of other Canadian law schools outside of Manitoba.





ARTICLING RECRUITMENT GUIDELINES

Workplaces looking to hire articling students to start in the spring/summer of 2026 can refer to the guidelines posted on our website.

[RECRUITMENT GUIDELINES](#)

REMINDER:

The Guidelines applicable for the recruitment of articling students in the city of Winnipeg provide that offers made on June 10th must remain open until 10am on June 11th. Applicants receiving offers on June 10th are expected to respond to the offers by 10 am on the 11th. Thereafter, workplaces in Winnipeg that did not participate in the recruit can begin their own process for hiring articling students who would be starting articles no later than December 31, 2027. (Articling positions in Winnipeg starting in 2028 are a part of next year's recruitment guidelines, which will be posted in early 2027.)

In accordance with the Articling Recruitment Guidelines, we kindly ask you to advise articling@lawsociety.mb.ca of the names of your recruited articling students for next year.

Both workplaces and students are reminded that once an offer is accepted, neither the student nor the workplace can withdraw from the agreement without the permission of the Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society.

Questions?

Contact: *Joan Holmstrom*

Phone: 204-926-2017 or email: jholmstrom@lawsociety.mb.ca.

PREP IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday,
June 19, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

**Mass Call to the Bar Ceremony
RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre**

	Accelerated PREP 2026	June 2026 Intake
PHASE ONE: Course Opens	June 8, 2026	June 22, 2026
DEADLINE TO PAY 2nd Tuition Instalment	May 29, 2026	June 19, 2026
Participate in six online synchronous workshops	June 1, 2026 to June 26, 2026	June 22, 2026 to September 4, 2026
DEADLINE TO PAY 3rd Tuition Instalment	June 19, 2026	August 28, 2026
PHASE THREE: Complete assignments Virtual Law Firm	June 26, 2026 to August 6, 2026	September 8, 2026 to January 22, 2027
DEADLINE TO PAY Final Tuition Instalment	July 30, 2026	January 13, 2027
Complete Capstone Evaluations	August 10, 2026 to August 21, 2026	January 25, 2027 to February 5, 2027

PREP SESSIONS

Additional Information for Firms and Students

JOAN HOLMSTROM, Director - Competence

EMPLOYERS: PLEASE NOTE

Workplaces should not provide assignments to students enrolled in the **Accelerated Program** between June 8, 2026 and August 21, 2026.

Students enrolled in the **Regular Program** must be given time not only to attend the six workshops in the summer period, but also to prepare the required background work expected for the six workshop sessions. Further, workplaces should not assign any duties to students which may prevent a student from completing the required activities in the two-week Capstone period in early 2027.

PREP TUITION SUBSIDY

Only students already registered with the Law Society as an articling student member are eligible for the PREP tuition subsidy. The subsidy will be paid by the Law Society after notification from CPLED that it has been paid in full. The subsidy will be paid according to the information the student and principal provided on the Articling Agreement.

FALL ACCELERATED PROGRAM

	ACCELERATED PREP FALL 2026
Registration Opens	August 4, 2026
Registration Deadline	August 21, 2026

QUESTIONS? Contact Joan Holmstrom at 204-926-2017 or at jholmstrom@lawsociety.mb.ca.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES



Practising to Non-Practising:

Apr. 1, 2026	Loralei J. Colquhoun
Apr. 27, 2026	Ogban Chima-Oduka
Apr. 27, 2026	Areeg Bhalli
Apr. 28, 2026	Tariq Ali
Apr. 30, 2026	Joyce A. Simiyu
May 1, 2026	Neil C. Searles
May 2, 2026	Connor J. Cleverley
May 2, 2026	Stefanie T. Steigerwald
May 7, 2026	Sarah K. Davis
May 8, 2026	Amber L. Harms
May 11, 2026	Minh Nguyen
May 11, 2026	Glenn N. Jones
May 15, 2026	Emily E. Meijer
May 15, 2026	Melissa M.O. Jenin
May 19, 2026	Ashley L. Kaufmann
May 29, 2026	Roger B. King, KC
May 30, 2026	Jacqueline E. Briard
May 30, 2026	Israel A. Ludwig
June 1, 2026	Fay-Lynn Katz

New Admissions:

Apr. 28, 2026	Mark A. Mason
May 1, 2026	Eleanor J. Henderson
May 1, 2026	Darwin Macaraeg
May 1, 2026	Akeem A. Toromade
May 1, 2026	Lima Nizami
May 4, 2026	Gordon J. Becher
May 12, 2026	Delaram Fahandezh-Saad
May 15, 2026	Brent J.W.S. Tichon
May 15, 2026	Eric J. Moon
June 1, 2026	Meera C. Jain
June 1, 2026	Ivonne G. Alvarez-Mancia
June 1, 2026	Gillian V.V. Findlay
June 1, 2026	Sadia A. Choudhury
June 1, 2026	Lindsay D. LeBlanc
June 1, 2026	Tyler B. Johnson
June 1, 2026	Daniel W. Wark
June 1, 2026	Easton A.M. Lacey
June 1, 2026	Ruban K. Satkunan

Non-Practising to Practising:

May 4, 2026	Dianna R. Nesbit
May 4, 2026	Erin M. Dunsmore
May 4, 2026	Chanelle Lajoie
May 15, 2026	William J. Burnett
May 25, 2026	Sutheat Tim
June 1, 2026	Scott M. Christiansen

[Member Forms Available Here](#)

NOTICE OF BENCHERS' MEETING

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



Thursday, June 18, 2026



The Law Society offices
and via videoconference



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:

- September 10, 2026
- October 29, 2026
- December 10, 2026
- February 4, 2027
- March 18, 2027
- May 13, 2027
- June 17, 2027

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



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Law Society of Manitoba will be held on

**Thursday, June 18, 2026
at 12:30 p.m.**

at the Law Society offices and via videoconference.

All members are invited to attend.



Contact Pat Bourbonnais at
pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca
to receive the videoconference information.



IN MEMORIAM

Leon Nicholas Mercury, KC, who passed away on February 25, 2026 at the age of 94. Mr. Mercury received his call to the Bar on December 5, 1956. He practised with the firm known today as MLT Aikins for 40 years, retiring in 1997. Mr. Mercury was appointed King's Counsel in 1985.

Garfield (Gary) Vernon Brickman, KC, who passed away on March 8, 2026 at the age of 88. Mr. Brickman received his call to the Bar on June 2, 1967. He served as a Crown Attorney for the Department of the Attorney General for one year before joining the firm known today as Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP where he practised for 43 years, retiring in 2011. Mr. Brickman was appointed King's Counsel in 1979.

Melvin (Mel) Myers, KC, who passed away on March 24, 2026 at the age of 89. Mr. Myers received his call to the Bar on July 27, 1961. He served as a Crown Attorney for the Department of the Attorney General for three years before joining the firm known today as Myers LLP where he practised for 37 years. From 2001 to 2016 Mr. Myers served as chairperson of the Auto Injury Compensation Appeal Commission. He was appointed King's Counsel in 1971.



Law Society

HEALTH RECOVERY PROGRAM

A positive alternative

Focusing on support, rehabilitation and recovery.

[Learn More](#)

Insurance Payment Due

July 2, 2026



On June 1st, all practising members received an email regarding their Professional Liability Claims Fund assessment.

This year's assessment is due **Thursday, July 2, 2026** and can be paid in one or two instalments.

Don't Delay!
Late fees will apply starting July 3rd.

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

MANITOBA BLUE CROSS



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- **Financial Stress**
- **Relationships**
- **Career Transitions**
- **Mental Health**
- **Addictions**

LEARN MORE



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



CPD Education Centre

Programs

Western Bar CPD

September 11 | Elkhorn Resort, Clear Lake, Manitoba

Register



Summer offers us an opportunity to **reflect** and **recharge**, and it's the perfect chance to **refresh** our commitment to learning.

New to CPD on Demand

2026 Joint Family Law Program

Enrol

Navigating CanLII

FREE

Available for a limited time only!

Enrol

S'inscrire

Your Financial Roadmap with Lawyers Financial

FREE

Enrol

Family Law Matters to Your Wills and Estates Clients

FREE

Enrol

Practice Resources

Check out our free Practice Resources, where you'll find a variety of **written materials, articles, interactive CPD Bytes**, and more!

Practice Area Fundamentals

Practice Management

Upcoming IMPORTANT DATES At a Glance

JUNE 15

Part-Time Practising Fees Survey Closes

JUNE 18

**ANNUAL MEETING
AND
BENCHER MEETING**

12:30 p.m.

JUNE 19

CALL TO THE BAR CEREMONY

RBC Convention Centre

9:00 a.m.

JULY 2

PAYMENT DUE:

2026-2027 Insurance Payment

FILING DEADLINE:

2026-2027 Insurance Exemption Application



PRESIDENT

Ken Mandzuik, KC

VICE PRESIDENT

Sharyne Hamm

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Leah Kosokowsky

DEPUTY CEO

Alissa Schacter

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Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

lawsociety.mb.ca

