



# Communiqué

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

KYLE DEAR

### What's New

Become a Bencher

NEW CanLII Search Tool

Essential (and Free!)  
Resources from Russell  
Davidson

NEW CPD Resources!

Two recent articles about artificial intelligence and legal writing caught my attention. One was a February 16, 2026 opinion piece in the *Globe and Mail* entitled "[AI writing just isn't good enough – and if you're using it, everyone can already tell.](#)" The other was a January 7, 2026 column on *Slaw.ca* titled "[The Real Problem in Hallucination Cases Is Not the Failure to Verify.](#)" I did not realize until later that both were written by Professor Robert Diab.

In the *Globe*, Professor Diab argues that generative AI cannot replicate the depth, precision, and judgment that professional legal writing requires, and that it is becoming increasingly easy for those attuned to AI to spot the patterns, cadence, and generic, frictionless language used by tools such as ChatGPT. Even where it avoids outright fabrication, he suggests the writing has no "real sense of voice" and is missing the "practical wisdom" of a person who draws on "a store of experience and judgment to find the most relevant analogy." In his *Slaw* post, Professor Diab makes a related point: the problem raised by recent "hallucination" cases is not simply a failure to verify, but competence. He postulates that "AI is good at many things, but it cannot draft a submission nearly as well as you can, if you put in the effort."

In February, I completed the [CBA's AI Academy course](#), available free to CBA members until the end of April. One of the articles in the materials outlined 30 reasons why lawyers hesitate to use large language models. The list was familiar: so-called "hallucinations" (information that has no basis in fact, often presented with confidence), bias, confidentiality risks, exposure to malpractice claims, court rules, and unclear regulatory guidance. Generative systems can sound entirely confident and still be wrong. They also continue to struggle with accurately identifying and quoting statutory provisions, particularly when amendments or jurisdiction-specific wording are involved. Verification of legislative citations and any case law must remain entirely manual.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** continued...

The Manitoba Court of King's Bench recognized the impact of artificial intelligence early. Its June 23, 2023 Practice Direction requires that when AI is used in preparing materials filed with the court, that use must be disclosed. In practice, however, I have yet to see a filing stating that it was drafted with the assistance of AI. That may mean it is not being used, but I suspect professionals are relying on these tools more and more. It is also possible that AI is being used in ways that are difficult to attribute, for example to check grammar or refine structure rather than generate ideas. It also seems reasonable to assume that self-represented litigants are relying on these tools without awareness of the Court's Practice Direction. That adds another layer of caution. It is not only our own materials that require careful review; we must also scrutinize what is filed by others.

There are broader considerations as well. My 21-year-old has been reminding me that these systems consume significant energy and water to cool the servers that power their computations. Technological efficiency is not environmentally neutral, and its footprint will inevitably grow. That is another factor to keep in mind as usage expands.

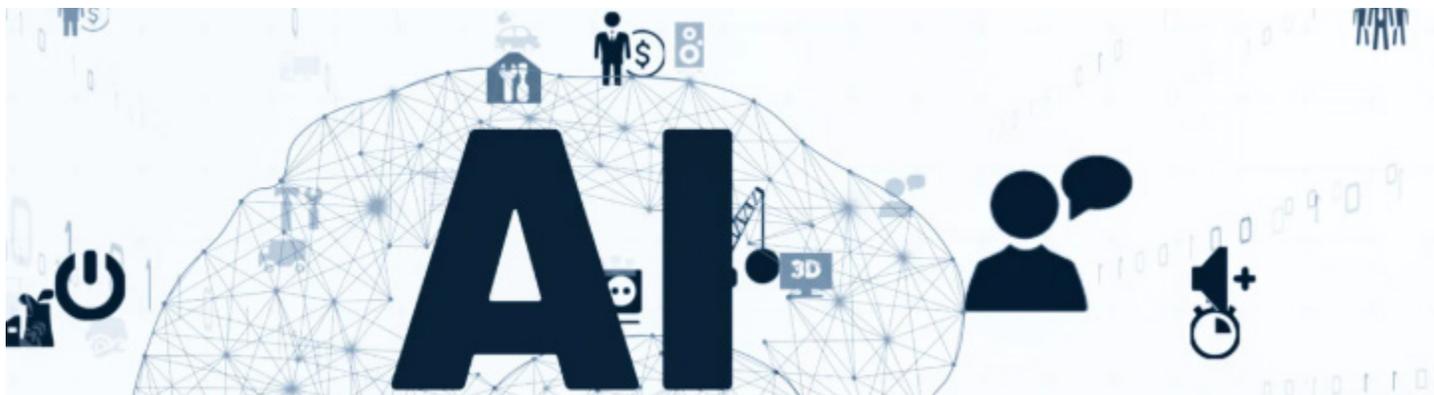
None of this means these tools have no place in practice. They clearly do. They can assist with research, organization, and drafting. In contrast to the 30 reasons for hesitation, the CBA AI Academy article offered only one reason why lawyers should engage with these tools: because they are not going away. It argued that direct, careful engagement is the only way to understand both their risks and their potential.

The courts are continuing to consider and reflect upon their implications. At the January MBA Council meeting, Associate Chief Justice Perlmutter noted that a committee is being struck to review issues relating to AI. That seems to me a sensible step.

In the meantime, our professional framework remains our guide. In 2024, the Law Society issued "[Generative Artificial Intelligence: Guidelines for Use in the Practice of Law](#)" to support lawyers navigating these rapidly evolving systems. The duty of competence we owe to our clients includes understanding and appropriately using technology, and appreciating its benefits, risks, and limitations. Accuracy, confidentiality, and accountability remain central. If our name appears on a document, it is ours.

Professor Diab's broader point bears repeating. Verification is necessary, but it is not sufficient. Legal writing involves nuance, judgment, strategy, and emotional intelligence. AI cannot reproduce the disciplined reasoning and professional responsibility our work demands. We still need to do the thinking ourselves.

As March approaches and winter begins to loosen its grip, I decided to use ChatGPT to sketch out a spring training plan as I try to get back into running. It is helpful, but I still have to do the running myself.





## CEO'S MESSAGE

LEAH KOSOKOWSKY



*A noteworthy item in the budget is the need to update the Law Society's IT infrastructure to keep pace with technological advances and to meet the needs of the public and the members.*

The benchers' first meeting of 2026 was held on February 5th in the Law Society classroom. At the outset of the meeting, **Kirsten Wurmman** delivered a presentation on the Manitoba Law Library's Prison Libraries Project, a terrific access to justice initiative through which incarcerated Manitobans have access to legal information and publications.

In keeping with the Law Society's mandate to regulate an independent legal profession and uphold the rule of law, the benchers approved of a more robust oath to be administered to candidates upon their call to the Bar.

Law Society President, **Kyle Dear**, is committed to continuous improvement in governance. The benchers participated in a governance tuneup at the September bench meeting and late in 2025 completed a bench self-evaluation. A report on the results of the self-evaluation was considered at the February 5th meeting and as a consequence, the benchers are reflecting upon how to provide regular governance training to coincide with the orientation of new benchers.

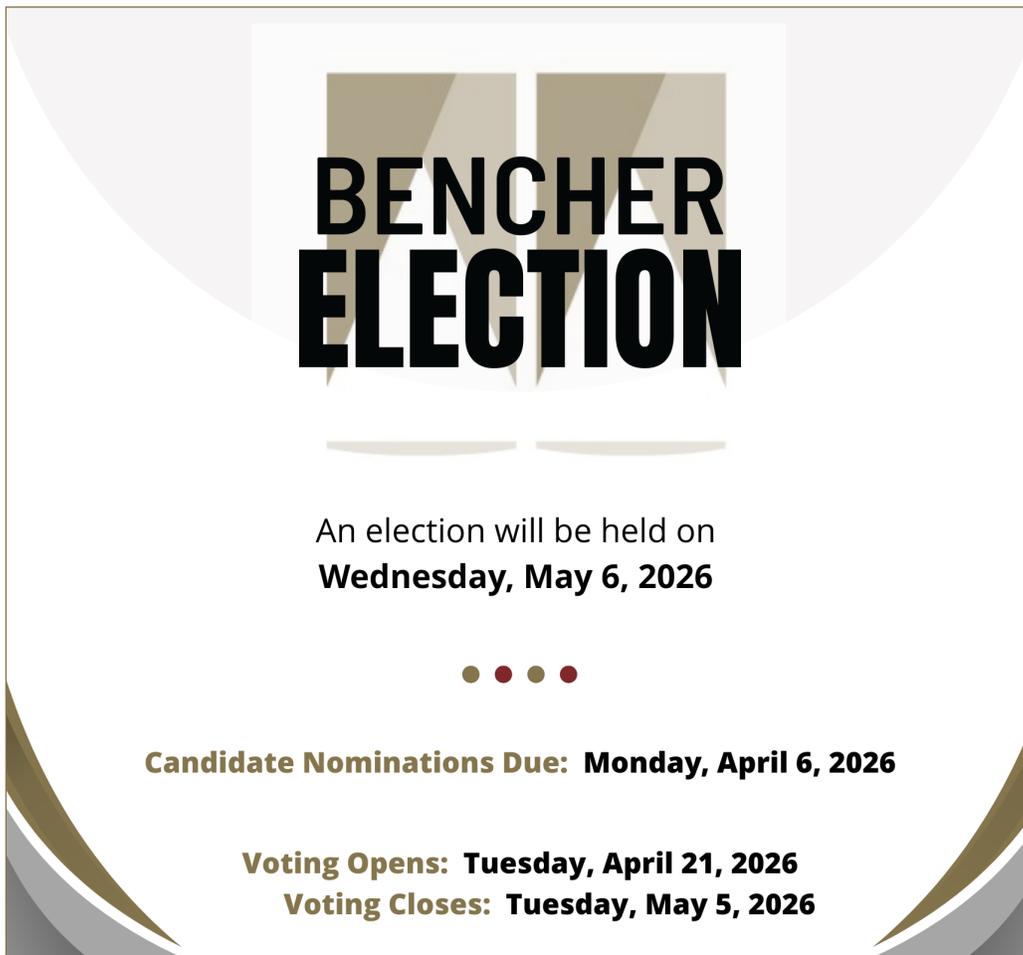
The benchers received the 2026-2027 budget which includes a modest fee increase of \$100 per member. A noteworthy item in the budget is the need to update the Law Society's IT infrastructure to keep pace with technological advancements and to meet the needs of the public and the members. Two other items of note are the financial commitment to the Law Society's Access to Justice Ecosystem initiative (formerly titled the Justice Centre) and the Rule of Law Campaign, both of which are funded through the statutory grant received from the Manitoba Law Foundation.

**CEO's MESSAGE** continued...

In keeping with a recommendation arising out of the bencher self-evaluation survey, the benchers received a comprehensive report on the administration and operations of the Law Society generally and how we regulate with a budget of approximately \$15 million.

Finally, the benchers received an update on the work of the Admissions and Education Committee which continues to examine the scope of the good character assessment for new admissions to the bar in Manitoba. The committee will conclude its work over the next several weeks and will provide a final report and recommendations to the benchers at the March 19, 2026 meeting.

The 2026 bencher election is on May 6, 2026, with seven available seats in the City of Winnipeg electoral district and one available seat in each of the Northern, Eastern, Western and Dauphin-Central electoral districts. Following the bencher election, four additional lawyer benchers will be appointed, in accordance with the skills and diversity matrix. Please consider running in the election or applying for an appointed bencher seat. Alternatively, please stay tuned to the Law Society website where the profiles of those running for election will be posted, and please vote.

A graphic announcement for the Bencher Election. It features a large, bold title "BENCHER ELECTION" in black text. Below the title, it states "An election will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026". A decorative horizontal line with four colored dots (green, red, green, red) is positioned below the date. Further down, it lists "Candidate Nominations Due: Monday, April 6, 2026", "Voting Opens: Tuesday, April 21, 2026", and "Voting Closes: Tuesday, May 5, 2026". The graphic has a white background with grey and gold curved accents at the top and bottom.



## BECOME A BENCHER

Interested in policy, governance and shaping the future of the legal profession?

The bi-annual Law Society bencher election process will be underway shortly and we encourage all practising members to consider seeking election or appointment to the bencher table. Election day is **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**.

To be eligible for election or appointment, a member of the Law Society must be a practising lawyer on the 1st Monday in March.

Each bencher sits for a two-year term, for a maximum of four terms (eight years). Nominations for election are due no later than **Monday, April 6, 2026**.

If you are not in a position to run for election, but would like to contribute, consider putting your name forward as a candidate for appointment. Learn more about appointed lawyer bencher positions [here](#).



If you have questions and would like to learn more about the bencher experience, please contact any one of the following or any other sitting bencher. We would be happy to connect with you.

**Leah Kosokowsky**  
Chief Executive Officer  
204-926-2030  
[lkosokowsky@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:lkosokowsky@lawsociety.mb.ca)

**Kyle Dear**  
President  
204-988-0379  
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**Ken Mandzuik, K.C.**  
Vice President  
204-947-6805  
[kmandzuik@traditionlaw.ca](mailto:kmandzuik@traditionlaw.ca)

**Gerri Wiebe, K.C.**  
Past President  
204-949-8122  
[gerri.wiebe@gwslaw.ca](mailto:gerri.wiebe@gwslaw.ca)

[LEARN MORE](#)



## THE RICHARD J. SCOTT AWARD

### Nominations Due: March 27th

The Richard J. Scott Award is presented annually by the Law Society of Manitoba 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.

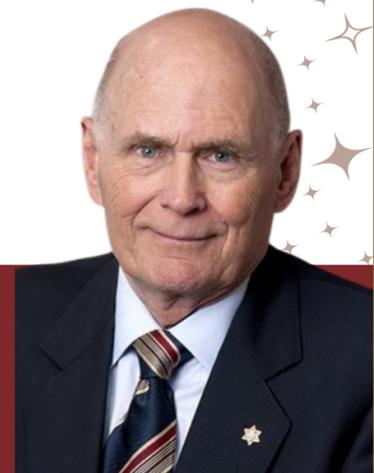
The award pays tribute to the late Chief Justice Richard Scott, who served as Manitoba's Chief Justice for more than two decades and was a past President of the Law Society of Manitoba. We remain steadfast in our commitment to carrying forward this important work in honour of his legacy, with the utmost respect and admiration.

### How to Submit a Nomination

Submissions should include the nominee's C.V. and an explanation as to why the nominee deserves this award. Previous nominees are welcome to submit their names for consideration.

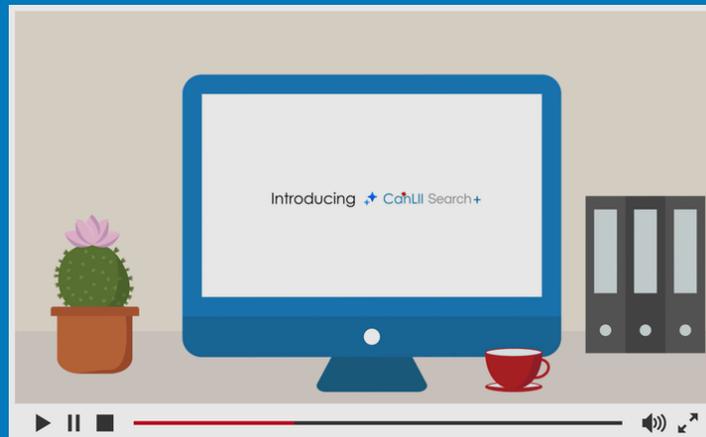
E-mail:  
Pat Bourbonnais  
Executive Assistant to the CEO  
[pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca)

**[CLICK HERE](#)**  
**to learn more about the award  
and see past recipients.**



## CanLII Search+

### A Powerful New Legal Research AI Tool



#### Why try Search+?

- **Natural Language:** Query CanLII's vast database as easily as speaking to a colleague.
- **Direct Insights:** Jump straight to the most relevant passages within judicial decisions.
- **Verified Data:** Search with confidence, knowing results are pulled exclusively from CanLII's trusted database.

**Practice Guidance:** *As with all AI tools, it is important to ensure you understand how the tool works and how any data you enter may be used and stored.*

#### How does the tool handle privacy?

CanLII has implemented measures to protect data. User queries are not used to train public language models. However, it is recommended that you do not submit personal or confidential information in your questions.

#### How is my search history stored?

Search history for CanLII Search+ is currently stored locally in your browser and is temporary. It may be lost if you clear your browser cookies or use a different browser or device. Persistent history linked to users' myCanLII accounts is planned for a future update.

### Learn More

Visit [search-plus.canlii.org](https://search-plus.canlii.org)

Register for Free CPD Webinars April 22 & 23



# 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](http://ourstoprotect.ca).

@ourstoprotectca

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Law Society

# HEALTH RECOVERY PROGRAM

*A positive alternative*

Focusing on support, rehabilitation and recovery.

Learn More

# LAWYERS FOR LITERACY

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Mulvey School  
750 Wolseley Avenue

Come share a meaningful day of reading with the children of the West Broadway Youth Outreach Program. Volunteer your time, sponsor a colleague, or support the program with a donation.



View a video of last year's event



**REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER**

**DONATE HERE**

Learn more about this event on our [community page](#).



## ANNUAL MEMBER REPORT

*Due April 1, 2026*

This year's Annual Member Report is now available in the Member Portal and is due April 1, 2026. It combines your annual report on your continuing professional development activities in 2025 and your Law Corporation renewal (for those that have them). For trust account supervisors, there are additional reporting requirements. This report must be filed by every lawyer who had practising status in Manitoba at any time in 2025.

Completing and submitting this report is mandatory. Notification that your personalized online form is ready for completion was sent to your preferred email address for Law Society communications during the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>. The email notification would have contained your user ID and login instructions on how to access the Member Portal for easy completion and filing of the report. If you have not received your email notification but believe you should have, first check your spam or junk mail folder. To avoid Law Society emails mistakenly being flagged as spam, add the email address [no\\_reply@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:no_reply@lawsociety.mb.ca) to your contacts/safe sender list.

If you still are unable to locate this notice in your inbox, then please email us at [membership@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:membership@lawsociety.mb.ca) or by phone at 204-942-5571 to confirm we have your correct email address.

**Complete Online**

# 2026-2027 Practising Fee RENEWAL

## April 1, 2026

### Get your invoice?

An email was sent on February 27th with instructions on how to retrieve your personalized invoice in the

**Member Portal**



If you did not receive your email or invoice, you can contact **Carol Hiebert**

 [chiebert@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:chiebert@lawsociety.mb.ca)

 **204-926-2046**

## FAST TRACK PHOTO ID RENEWAL

Your Fast Track Photo ID card expires on March 31st

### RENEWAL IS FAST AND EASY!

If you had a card last year, the renewal is included on your personalized invoice in the [Member's Portal](#). Cards are automatically issued when your practising fees and fast track payment are received.

For assistance, contact SHARI LOUGH

 [slough@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:slough@lawsociety.mb.ca)  204-942-5571

You will have a 30-day grace period where your 2025-2026 card will allow you access to the Law Courts. After April 30th, Manitoba Sherriff's Officers will confiscate any expired cards.



## DO YOU QUALIFY AS A PART-TIME PRACTITIONER?

**FIND OUT HERE**

Lawyers who were approved as part-time practitioners last year are required to re-apply for part-time status again for the 2026-2027 practising year.  
To re-apply, sign in to the **Member's Portal**.

**Payment Due: April 1, 2026**



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Manitoba Court of Appeal,  
Court of King's Bench  
and Provincial Court

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 204-201-1764

 [support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca](mailto:support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca)

 [www.lawyerstrong-mb.ca](http://www.lawyerstrong-mb.ca)

## BEWARE OF IMPERSONATORS!



**ALISSA SCHACTER**  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



There is a new scam to watch out for; it is a variation of the grandparent scam. We recently had a lawyer who I will call "Tom" advise us that someone had impersonated him. The impersonator phoned an elderly woman, identified himself as Tom and indicated that he worked at a firm I will call XYZ Law, which is the name of Tom's firm. The impersonator told the woman that a friend of hers - who he identified by name - was in jail, and needed \$6,000 for bail. Luckily the woman did not fall for it. She checked with a retired lawyer she knew who helped her identify that while Tom was a real lawyer working at XYZ Law, the address the impersonator provided for the firm was incorrect. It was the woman's friend who contacted Tom to tell him about the impersonation. Tom then phoned the victim, who was mistrustful and reluctant to even speak to him. Tom reported the incident to the police. We also reached out to the Winnipeg Police Service and requested they alert the public, which they have agreed to do as part of their communication regarding scams.

Tom made us aware of another situation where someone had attempted to impersonate a lawyer at a different firm. The circumstances were different and involved falsified documents which were somewhat convincing.

## Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Firm



1. Assign a member of your team to search the internet for your firm's name periodically to make sure that scammers haven't replicated your firm's website, perhaps using a name that varies slightly from your firm's actual name. They may then include phony names and contact details for lawyers so that they may refer their intended victims to the faux website to verify the information they provide them.
2. If you do not have a website, then search the internet for your own name periodically to ensure no one has developed a website using your name. Scammers have been known to do this. You may also consider a defensive domain name registration.
3. If you become aware that someone has attempted to impersonate you, contact the police and inform the Law Society. Fraudulently impersonating another person for the purpose of personal gain, or gain for someone else is a criminal offence.<sup>i</sup> According to the *Code of Professional Conduct*,<sup>ii</sup> lawyers have a duty to assist in preventing the unauthorized practice of law.
4. If you find a fraudulent website using your name, take screen shots of the pages and record the URL, then contact the service provider who hosts the fraudulent website to take it down. If you want to find out who the service provider is, go to a site like [ICANN Lookup](#) and type in the fraudster's website name. You may be able to determine who created the website and which website service provider is the host. You should then contact the host advising them that your identity has been appropriated or misappropriated and ask them to take it down. As the lawyer and firm being impersonated, you have standing to get the phony website taken down. Here is a [link](#) to an article in Avoid-a-Claim blog. You or your IT support people can follow the steps in the article and the included comments to eliminate the phony website
5. You should also make a report to [The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#).
6. You might consider posting a notice on your firm's website indicating that there are scammers who impersonate lawyers, including by creating fake law firm websites. In light of that, the firm wants clients, prospective clients and the public to know it does not contact individuals who are not clients to request money on behalf of a client.

Fraudsters do not rest and are constantly concocting new methods for deceiving unsuspecting members of the public, and in some cases lawyers. Artificial intelligence provides additional tools for the fraudster's toolkit, making it easier to falsify documents that appear legitimate and convincingly replicate someone's voice and image, known as creating a "deepfake".

We recommend that you educate the lawyers and other staff within your firm about these risks and encourage them to remain alert to indicators that something may be amiss so you can investigate and hopefully prevent any wrong doing. It may not be possible to anticipate every possible type of fraud, but you can take reasonable and proportional measures, in keeping with the size of your firm, to reduce your exposure to risk.

<sup>i</sup> *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46 s. 403

<sup>ii</sup> *Code of Professional Conduct*, section 7.6

## ESSENTIAL (AND FREE!) REAL ESTATE RESOURCES FROM RUSSELL DAVIDSON

**KATE CRATON**, Claims Counsel

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If your practice ever touches on real estate law, your library needs to include copies of Russell Davidson's publications:

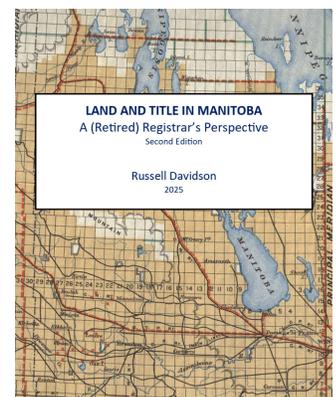
- [\*Land and Title in Manitoba, a Registrar's Perspective\*](#)
- [\*Removing Instruments from Title\*](#)

Both are chock-full of legal authority and practical tips for addressing most land titles dilemmas.

### Land and Title in Manitoba, a Registrar's Perspective

As a retired District Registrar of the Land Titles Office, Russell wrote *Land and Title in Manitoba, a Registrar's Perspective* to capture knowledge he accumulated over 26 years in the Manitoba Land Titles System, and to help those grappling with land-related issues.

Updated in late 2025, the volume now contains more than 150 pages of explanatory materials, and nearly as many pages of statutory references and case law excerpts. It canvases both substantive and procedural aspects of Manitoba's land system with all its idiosyncrasies. It covers the province's legal and survey history, old and new systems of land ownership, the various estates and interests in land, forms of tenancies, mines and minerals, powers of attorney, improper or unconscionable dealings, and much more.



[\*Land and Title in Manitoba, a Registrar's Perspective\*](#) is available free-of-charge on the Law Society's Education Centre website. Check out its table of contents to see the wealth of resources it offers!

## ESSENTIAL (AND FREE!) RESOURCES continued...

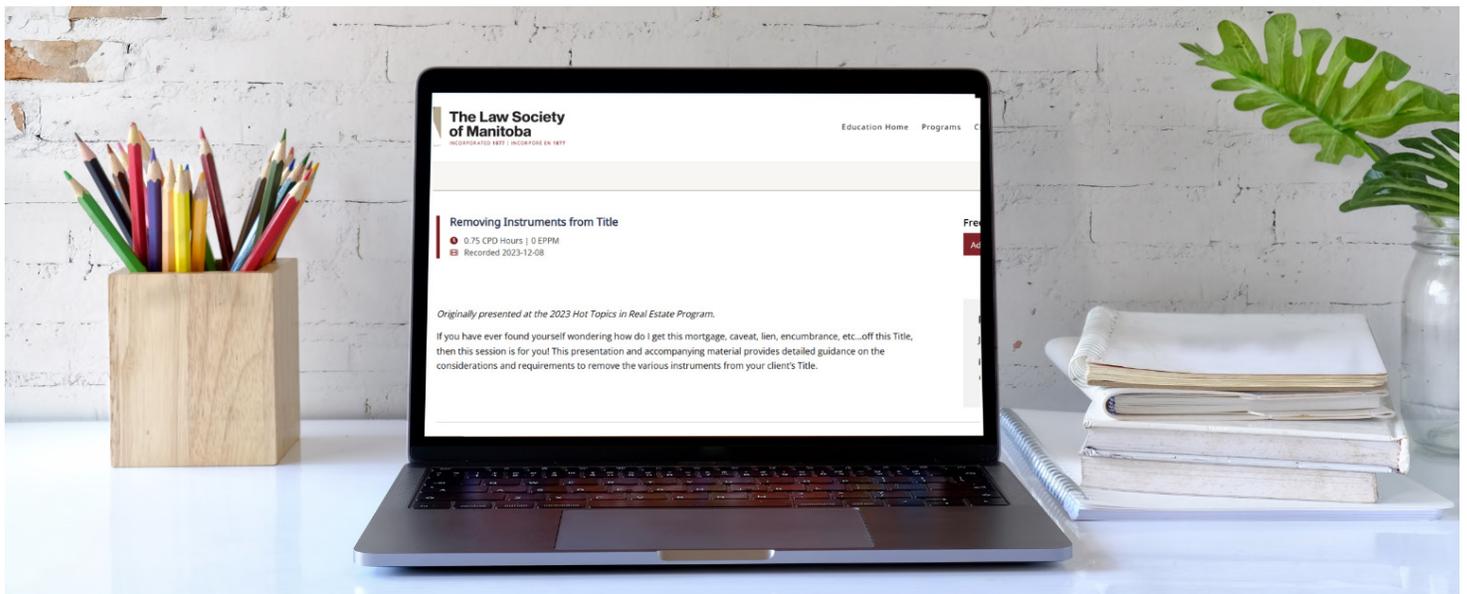
### Removing Instruments from Title

If you have ever struggled to dispose of invalid title registrations—the expired PPSN, builders’ lien or lease caveat, the intervening judgment that post-dates the offer to purchase, a mortgage held by a deceased mortgagee paid out decades ago—you’ll also want to have Russell’s *Removing Instruments from Title* within easy reach. He presented this paper at the 2023 Hot Topics in Real Estate CPD and it was included in the materials.

In the paper, Russell covers the extra-judicial authority of District Registrars to remove an assortment of unwanted charges from titles, walking through the statutory provisions and LTO forms and procedures relating to the removal of mortgages, caveats, certificates of judgment, personal property security notices, builders’ liens, pending litigation orders, leases, homestead notices, development scheme agreements, old system instruments and other encumbrances.



[Removing Instruments from Title](#) CPD is available on demand and free-of-charge from the Law Society’s Education Centre website. Russell’s paper can be downloaded from the Materials segment of the course.



**Russell Davidson’s works are invaluable resources you’ll want to have on hand both for your own reference and for use by your legal support staff, articling students, and colleagues.**



## Practice Management **QUICK TIPS**

To Make Practice (and Life) Easier



TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance

Do you want to you practise law more productively? Consider contacting Barney Christianson, KC, the Law Society of Manitoba's Practice Management Advisor for free and confidential advice. Barney has practiced in both small and large firms, and has always been interested in the tricks, tips and technology to make the business of the practice of law more effective and less painful. Barney is also plugged into the network of North American practice management advisors and collects and curates some of the best resources out there and shares them with us for *Communiqué*.

### Cyber Security for Solo and Small Firms

Cyber security is fundamental to the successful law firm. If you do not pay constant attention to it, you will end up in seven kinds of hell.

From the Missouri Bar Association, here is some advice on where to focus efforts on security posture for the coming year for solos and small firms. Read the article: [Management matters: Enhance your solo or small firm's cyber security in 2026.](#)



## Using AI to Record, Transcribe and Summarize Conversations with Clients

The New York City Bar Association has published a [Formal Opinion regarding Ethical Issues Affecting Use of AI to Record, Transcribe, and Summarize Conversations with Clients](#). If you are thinking of doing something like that, this is a good place to find things you should be cautious about.

[Fun Fact: The NYCBA was founded in 1870. It has more than 23,000 members, making it bigger than the Law Societies of the three Prairie Provinces combined.]

## Preserving Meeting Request Emails in Outlook

In its default state, Outlook will automatically delete a meeting request once you accept or decline. It might be useful to keep those emails if you need to check back. It's simple. [Here's how to do it](#).



## Moving Your Microsoft To-Do Lists

Do you use Microsoft To-Do lists? It can be hard to transfer a list from one account to another. If you need To Do it (pun intended), here's how to [transfer Microsoft To-Do list from one account to another](#).

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.



# YOU ARE ALREADY A MENTOR

## *Why Small Moments of Guidance Matter More Than You Think*

**NOELIA BERNARDO**, Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor



Have you ever corrected a junior's draft and thought, "How did they miss that?" Or explained a courtroom practise that "everyone knows"? In those moments, you were mentoring.

Mentorship does not require a formal program or extra meetings. It happens every day - when you review a draft, prepare for court, meet with a client, or talk through a file. People notice how you make decisions, handle pressure, speak to clients, and deal with opposing counsel.

The question is not whether you are mentoring. You are. The question is whether you are doing it intentionally. Being intentional does not add work. It often makes practice easier. Junior lawyers who are encouraged to think through issues, understand context, and receive clear feedback become more independent and confident. That reduces avoidable errors and repeated questions.

## YOU ARE ALREADY A MENTOR continued...

### Here are a few practical reminders:



#### **Treat It Like a Conversation**

Before giving your answer, ask what they think. Let them talk it through. Help them understand how you reached your conclusion. Over time, they will begin spotting issues on their own - and that saves you time.



#### **Remember They're Watching**

Junior lawyers learn as much from what you do as from what you say. How you communicate with clients, manage difficult conversations, handle deadlines, and comply with your professional obligations all shape their understanding of the role.



#### **Teach Them How to Find the Answer**

It may be faster to provide the answer. But walking through where to find it builds independence. Reviewing a Rule together or explaining how you approach a research question equips them to solve the next issue themselves.



#### **Delegate With Context**

Explain not only what you need, but why you need it and how it fits into the file. When someone understands the bigger picture, the quality of work improves.



#### **Give Useful Feedback**

If you revise a document, explain why. Identify what worked well and what could be strengthened. Even one focused comment can make a significant difference. Mistakes, handled constructively, become learning opportunities.



#### **Pay Attention**

If someone seems overwhelmed, check in early. A brief conversation can prevent larger problems. Encouraging use of available supports is part of developing a sustainable practice.

# Practice

## YOU ARE ALREADY A MENTOR continued...

Mentorship is not a separate task. It is part of practising well.

Guide. Challenge. Support.

The students and lawyers you invest in today will become your colleagues tomorrow - and, in many cases, the people you rely on.



If you would like more detailed guidance and practical tips on strengthening your mentorship role, you can read the full resource prepared by Sharon Kravetsky, CPD Practice Resource Coordinator, in the [Practice Management section](#) of our website:

[Read Full Resource: "You are a Mentor"](#)

Interested in other mentorship resources? Check out the Law(yer) Strong [Mentorship Hub](#).

## 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](mailto:practiceadvisor@lawsociety.mb.ca)

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

# PREP IMPORTANT DATES

	Standard PREP 2025
Results	On or about March 26, 2026
<b>Friday, June 19, 2026 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Mass Call to the Bar Ceremony RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre</b>

	Accelerated PREP 2026	Standard PREP 2026
<b>Monday, May 11, 2026</b>	Registration Opens	Registration Opens

**Questions?** Contact  
 Joan Holmstrom, Director - Competence  
 204-926-2017 or by email at  
[jholmstrom@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:jholmstrom@lawsociety.mb.ca)

## Manitoba Articling Recruitment Guidelines For the 2027-2028 Articling Year



These Guidelines are prepared pursuant to Law Society Rule 5-6.1 and concern the recruitment of articling students for positions within the City of Winnipeg. They set out the procedures for the recruitment of articling students in Winnipeg and were developed by representatives of the Manitoba Bar Association (MBA), the Law Society of Manitoba, the Manitoba Law Students Association and the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law. **All Winnipeg firms and organizations engaged in the recruitment of articling students for the 2027-2028 articling year, and all candidates applying to such employers, are expected to adhere to the guidelines and dates set out below. Workplaces outside of Winnipeg who also wish to participate in this recruitment may do so by submitting their firm profile in accordance with the guidelines. By doing so, they will be required to follow the deadlines and procedures set out in these guidelines.**

### Guidelines & Important Dates to Remember for Firms, Organizations and Students

#### Firm Profiles

Employers are to provide profiles containing information about the firm's practice, office facilities, the number of articling positions available, the documents required for the application (resume, cover letter, copies of transcripts, etc.), the contact person, address to which applications must be sent, and all other pertinent information to both:

1. The Faculty of Law, Career Development Office, via email: [lisa.griffin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:lisa.griffin@umanitoba.ca) (phone: 204-474-7932); and
2. The Law Society of Manitoba, via email: [articling@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:articling@lawsociety.mb.ca)

**no later than 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 16, 2026.** All postings received by this date will be accessible to Robson Hall students through the Faculty of Law Career Development website on Friday, March 20, 2026 by noon and to all others from the Law Society of Manitoba by emailing a request to [articling@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:articling@lawsociety.mb.ca). Profiles received after Monday, March 16, 2026 will be posted as quickly as possible.

#### Application Deadline

The application deadline for students to submit resumes, cover letters and unofficial transcripts directly to the employers for 2027-2028 articling positions shall be **12:00 (noon), Tuesday, May 12, 2026.**

## Interview Call Day

Employers may contact students only between **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2026**, to offer an Interview time slot during the Interview Period. No communication regarding interviews may be made prior to the Interview Call Day. Students must respond to an offer of an interview within this same time frame.

## Recruitment Suspension Period

Between **4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026 and 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2026**, neither students nor employers should be involved in any recruitment activity, including but not limited to participating in open houses, firm tours, or similar activities directed at encouraging employment, conducting of interviews, and discussing offers of employment.

Communications and interactions between employers and students related to a summer job placement, and not concerning an articling placement, are not prohibited in this context.

## Interview Period

**8:00 a.m., Monday, June 1, 2026, to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2026.** Interviews shall not be conducted prior to 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2026. Firms and organizations may interview students at a location of their choosing. Both the Law Society of Manitoba and the Faculty of Law may provide space upon request. Please contact [articling@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:articling@lawsociety.mb.ca) or [lisa.griffin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:lisa.griffin@umanitoba.ca) if you require a space to conduct your interviews.



## No Contact Period

There is to be no contact between students and employers between the end of the interview period and the earliest offer date.

## Eligible Students

Approved principals or their delegates may make an offer of an articling position only to students who have, at a minimum, completed their second year of law studies. Only students who have, or will have obtained an LL.B., J.D. or CQ from the National Committee of Accreditation on or prior to June 30, 2027.

## Earliest Offer Date

Approved principals or their delegates may **not** make an offer of an articling position in Winnipeg for the 2027-2028 articling term **before 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2026**. Offers made on June 10, 2026 must remain open until 10:00 a.m. of the following morning. Offers made on June 10, 2026 can be accepted or rejected by students anytime before 10:00 a.m. on June 11, but must be responded to by that time. *Offers made after June 11, 2026 must be responded to no later than 10:00 a.m. the following morning.*

## Content of Offers

At the time the offer is made, employers must provide students with the name and contact information of the person to whom the student should communicate acceptance or rejection of the offer. Employers are also encouraged to include pertinent information with the offer, such as the proposed start date, salary and benefits.

## Communication of Acceptance/Rejection

As a courtesy to employers and fellow students, students shall deal with offers received as soon as reasonably possible. Once a student has accepted an offer from one employer, the student must promptly communicate his/her rejection to any other employer that has extended an offer to the student. Failure to promptly communicate rejection of an offer prejudices the offering employer, as well as fellow students to whom subsequent offers may be made.



## Accepted Offers

Once an offer has been accepted, neither the employer nor the student may withdraw from the agreement without the permission of the Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of Manitoba.

## Offer of Articling Positions after June 11, 2026

Employers may contact students directly to fill any unfilled articling positions. Offers made after June 11, 2026 must remain open until 10:00 a.m. the following day, unless accepted or rejected by the student.

## Communication of Results

Once an offer has been accepted, the student and the employer **must immediately** advise **both**:

1. Lisa Griffin; Career Development, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law by email: [lisa.griffin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:lisa.griffin@umanitoba.ca) or phone: 204-474-7932); and
2. The Law Society of Manitoba, by email: [articling@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:articling@lawsociety.mb.ca)

These [recruitment guidelines](#) for workplaces looking to hire articling students to start in the spring/summer of 2027 are also posted on our website.

Timeline Summary	
Employer profiles/postings due at both Robson Hall and the Law Society of Manitoba	Monday, March 16, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CDT
Profiles/postings available to students	Friday, March 20, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) CDT
Application deadline for students	Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) CDT
Interview call day	Friday, May 22, 2026 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. CDT
Recruitment suspension period	Friday, May 22, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CDT to 8:00 a.m. CDT, Monday, June 1 2026
Interview period	Monday, June 1, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. CDT to 5:00 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, June 9, 2026
No contact period	Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CDT to 2:00 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Earliest offer date	No earlier than Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 2:00 pm CDT

## MANITOBA BLUE CROSS



**Free** and **confidential** service available 24 hours per day, seven days a week to support you with a variety of well-being concerns such as:

- **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**

# CALL TO THE BAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026 9:00 AM

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE

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.



If you have a Call candidate in your office and have a set of robes you are willing to lend for the Call, please let the articling student know.

Often candidates are too shy to ask but are most appreciative of the offer!



# MENTORSHIP HUB

**Connect. Learn. Grow**



The Mentorship Hub is an online mentorship community within the legal profession that brings together mentors and legal learners. It connects experienced lawyers with those seeking guidance in a confidential online space.

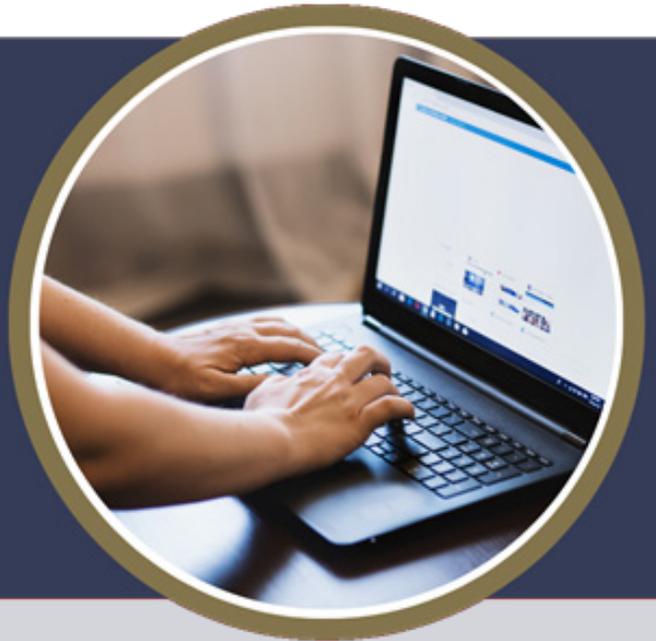
**Mentors and mentees can explore a wide range of topics, such as:**

- ✓ Practice management
- ✓ Specific practice areas
- ✓ Work-life balance
- ✓ Navigating high-conflict situations

**INTERESTED IN MENTORING OR BEING MENTORED? CONTACT US**

[admin@lawyerstrong-mb.ca](mailto:admin@lawyerstrong-mb.ca)

# MEMBERSHIP CHANGES



## Practising to Non-Practising:

Oct. 6, 2025	Selene E.F. Sharpe
Jan. 28, 2026	Laura A. Antymniuk
Jan. 29, 2026	Wafa A. Khan
Jan. 31, 2026	David J. Syvitski
Feb. 1, 2026	Charles A. Sherbo
Feb. 3, 2026	Selly N. Bonsu
Feb. 6, 2026	Brett B. Tannahill
Feb. 7, 2026	Brittney J. Hoyt
Feb. 7, 2026	Kasia H. Kieloch
Feb. 2, 2026	Jay L. Funke
Feb. 14, 2026	Leah P. Leibl
Feb. 17, 2026	Richard S. Fulham
Feb. 17, 2026	Stefani Cuberovic
Feb. 17, 2026	David A.D. Asper
Feb. 23, 2026	Kelby R. Loepky

## Non-Practising to Practising:

Jan. 19, 2026	Sara E. Gravelines
Jan. 26, 2026	Evann M. Waschuk
Feb. 2, 2026	Jessica L.M. Isaak
Feb. 2, 2026	Karen A. Diggins
Feb. 9, 2026	Samantha B. Guney
Feb. 15, 2026	Sven T. Hombach
Feb. 16, 2026	Micah J.K. Zerbe
Feb. 17, 2026	Veronica L. Haasbeek
Feb. 23, 2026	John G.D. Haraschuk

## New Admissions:

Feb. 2, 2026	Alexys Santos
Feb. 9, 2026	Tarlan Razzaghi
Feb. 13, 2026	Francis O. Akoji
Feb. 23, 2026	Marc J. Noreau

## Non-Practising to Suspended:

Jan. 22, 2026	Chad R. Sutherland
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[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, March 19, 2026**



**The Law Society offices  
and via videoconference**



**12:30 p.m.**

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



**Dates for the next meetings are as follows:**

- May 14, 2026
- June 18, 2026

If you wish to attend a meeting via videoconference, contact Pat Bourbonnais at [pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca).

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

## IN MEMORIAM

**Arthur Wortzman**, who passed away on December 21, 2025 at the age of 96. Mr. Wortzman received his call to the Bar on April 8, 1958. He practised as a sole practitioner for 50 years, retiring in 2008.

**Gregory Robert Shane Rodin, KC**, who passed away on January 18, 2026 at the age of 71. Mr. Rodin received his call to the Bar on June 28, 1979. He practised with Wolch, Pinx, Tapper, Scurfield for 18 years and then relocated to Calgary where he continued to practise up to the date of his death. Mr. Rodin was appointed King's Counsel in 2009.

**Brian Robert Bell**, who passed away on January 19, 2026 at the age of 66. Mr. Bell received his call to the Bar on June 28, 1990. He served as a Crown Attorney for Justice Manitoba – Public Prosecutions for 26 years, retiring in 2016.



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## **NOTICE OF SUSPENSION**

### **Chad Russell Sutherland**

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Pursuant to the resolution of a Panel of the Discipline Committee of The Law Society of Manitoba made on January 22, 2026, **CHAD RUSSELL SUTHERLAND** was found guilty of professional misconduct and is suspended indefinitely from the practice of law effective January 22, 2026.

January 27, 2026

**Leah Kosokowsky**  
Chief Executive Officer

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*Issued: January 27, 2026*

## Programs

### Northern Bar CPD

March 13 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Thompson, MB

Register

### Joint Family Law Program

April 17 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | In Person, Winnipeg, MB

Register

### Astuces et outils pour une recherche juridique efficace sur CanLII

le 22 avril | midi à 13h | Webinaire

S'inscrire

### Navigating CanLII: Tips and Tools for Efficient Legal Research

April 23 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Webinar

Register

## New Resources



**Free** written resources at your fingertips.

Read online, download, or print.

**Check out some of our latest!**

Severance of Joint  
Tenancies

Family Law  
Considerations for  
Real Estate Lawyers

Explore Practice Areas

Client intake

Business Structures for Your  
New Law Practice

Can't Find Your Client, But Still  
Have Their Money?

Explore Practice Management

Special shout-out to our [volunteer contributors](#) for helping make it possible!

# Upcoming IMPORTANT DATES At a Glance

**MARCH 13**  
**NORTHERN BAR CPD**

**MARCH 16**  
**FIRM PROFILE DEADLINE**  
by 4:00 p.m.  
for 2026-2027 Articling Recruitment

**MARCH 19**  
**BENCHER MEETING**  
12:30 p.m.

**MARCH 21**  
**LAWYERS FOR LITERACY**  
Mulvey School - 750 Wolseley Avenue  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**MARCH 27**  
**Richard J. Scott Award**  
*Nomination Deadline*

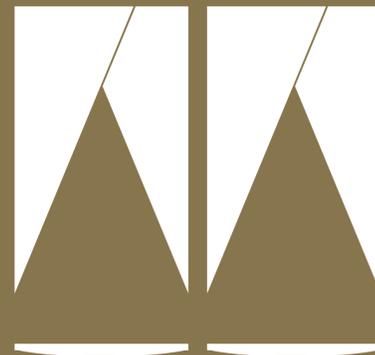
## **APRIL 1**

### **FILING DEADLINE:**

- 2025 Annual Member Report
- 2025 Mandatory Continuing Prof. Development (MCPD) Report

**RENEWAL DEADLINE:** Law Corporation Permit

**PAYMENT DUE:** 2026-2027 Practising Fees



### **PRESIDENT**

Kyle Dear

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Ken Mandzuik, KC

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Leah Kosokowsky

### **DEPUTY CEO**

Alissa Schacter

### **Mailing Address**

200 - 260 St. Mary Ave  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 0M6 - MAP

Telephone: 204-942-5571

Facsimile: 204-956-0624

Toll-free: 1-855-942-5571

### **Office Hours**

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

[lawsociety.mb.ca](http://lawsociety.mb.ca)

