



Communiqué

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS

President's Report	2
CEO Report	4
New Executive Members	6
Bencher Election Results	7
Building Connections	8
We're Hiring!	9
Law Student Registrations What You Need to Know	10
Upcoming Networking Events	13
Lawyers for Literacy	16

PRACTICE

Excess Insurance	22
Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Peace	25
Practice Management Quick Tips	26

WELL-BEING

Law(yer) Strong: Mental Health Awareness Week	28
Free Well-Being Webinars	31

EDUCATION

Call to the Bar	32
Articling Recruitment Guidelines	33
PREP Important Dates	34

NOTICES

Membership Changes	36
Notice of Benchers' Meeting	37
In Memoriam	37
Notice of Suspension	38

FEATURE:



WHO CAN SPEAK?

Student Appearances in Manitoba

16

RESOURCES

CPD Education Centre	40
Important Dates to Note	41





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

KYLE DEAR

What's New

**New Executive Officers
and Benchers Election
Results**

Networking Events

We're Hiring!

**FREE
Well-Being Webinars**

A Safe and Effective Practice

Complaints remain a significant part of the Law Society's work. Many do not result in discipline, but they still matter. They affect the client, the lawyer, and engage the Law Society's core responsibility to protect the public. Most do not arise from difficult legal issues or deliberate wrongdoing. They trace back to practice management: missed deadlines, unclear communication, disorganized files, taking on more than can reasonably be managed, and failures to provide courteous, thorough, and timely service to clients.

For my final Communiqué column as President, I wanted to share with you a book that has been very useful to me in practice: ***Safe and Effective Practice*** by Jean Côté and others, published by CLIA/CBELA and [available free online](#).

The Law Society gave my class a copy of this book when I articulated in 1999, and it is one of the few things I have come back to regularly since. It is a short book, but there is a lot to it. I cannot do it justice here. It focuses on the small, good habits that keep a lawyer's practice on track, and what gets in the way of them.

This is not really a book about the law. It is about how the work is done day to day, and why it can be harder than it should be. When basic systems are in place, files move, clients are kept informed, deadlines are met, and the work becomes easier to manage.

It is easy to say what good practice looks like. Returning calls. Meeting deadlines. Keeping clear, dated notes, including what needs to happen next. Staying organized. The harder question is why those things do not always happen, even when we intend them to, and how we actually go about getting them done.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued...

The book addresses that directly. It identifies the kinds of bad habits that get in the way: putting things off, letting files sit because they feel ill-defined, unpleasant, or intimidating, waiting until there is enough time to do something properly or until you have every piece of information you might possibly need, trying to keep too many things in your head at once, and allowing interruptions to take over the day.

Most of this will be familiar. It is not about ability. It is what happens in practice when things get busy.

Procrastination is part of the problem for many of us. Not because we do not care, but because the work can feel hard to pin down or difficult to get into. Perfectionism often sits behind it. We tell ourselves we need more time, more information, or the right approach before we start. That usually delays getting started.

Sometimes it turns into what I think of as "stress inertia", where there is so much to do that it becomes difficult to do anything at all. It is easy to get pulled into responding to emails as they come in, or into tasks that feel productive but do not move a file forward. At that point, even making a list can feel like too much.

Add the constant stream of messages and other interruptions, and it is not surprising that it becomes harder to stay focused. The pressure to bill, to account for time in small increments, and the number of files competing for your attention all add to the anxiety. It can turn into a spiral.

When that happens, avoidance or silence rarely help. What does help is picking the file back up in a way that feels manageable. Sometimes that starts with a simple instruction: do it now. Break the work into smaller steps so it is easier to begin. Write things down and use a system, rather than memory. Decide what needs to happen next before putting a file aside. Setting priorities and focusing on one thing at a time, even for a short, uninterrupted block, can help. If you are stuck on something you have been putting off, try ten minutes. That is often enough to get you back into it. It usually takes less time than you expect.

Files that have been sitting can often be brought back into good shape in a relatively short, focused block of time. Giving priority to the file you are avoiding can show that progress is possible. And sometimes the issue is not the file, but whether you should be the one doing it. In some cases, the right answer is to ask for help, delegate to staff, or refer the file to someone else.

This is not just about avoiding complaints. It is about making practice more do-able and, over time, more manageable.

People do not always address problems early. Sometimes that is because they are overwhelmed. Sometimes it is avoidance, hesitation about reaching out, or concern about making the situation worse. Sometimes there are underlying health issues. Sometimes it is a competence issue. None of that fixes the problem, but it does help explain why small issues can grow. It is also a reminder that we rarely know what someone else is dealing with.

There are supports available. If you need free and confidential advice to help you practice more effectively, consider contacting Barney Christianson, KC, the Law Society of Manitoba's [Practice Management Advisor](#). Assistance is also available through [Manitoba Blue Cross](#) and [Law\(yer\) Strong](#), and the Law Society offers continuing education resources where skills or systems need to be strengthened. [The Health Recovery Program](#) can, in appropriate cases, provide an alternative to discipline where conduct or competence issues are connected to health, with a focus on treatment and safe practice. These services are there for a reason.

If you have made an error and think you might be the subject of a claim, reach out to **Tana Christianson** or another member of the [Insurance Department](#).

Good practice is not about perfection. It is about good habits, systems, and how we manage the pressures of being a lawyer. Improving those habits, even in small ways, can make a real difference to how your practice runs, how manageable the work is, and the stress you carry day to day.



CEO'S MESSAGE

LEAH KOSOKOWSKY



... the benchers received the final report and recommendations of the Admissions and Education Committee concerning the breadth and scope of the Law Society's good character requirements for admission to the profession.

I am very pleased to report that at the March 19th meeting, the benchers elected the Law Society's 106th President, **Ken Mandzuik**, KC. Ken will be joined by **Sharyne Hamm**, who was elected to the position of Vice-President. At the May bencher meeting, Ken and Sharyne will assume their posts and current president, **Kyle Dear**, will move to the role of Past President. Rounding out the executive committee is **Carmen Nedohin** who will conclude her term as Officer-at-Large in June, following the appointment of her successor at the May bencher meeting. I am very much looking forward to working with this group of exceptional leaders.

Bencher Election

The 2026 bencher election has concluded and the votes have been tallied. We had an excellent number of nominations in the City of Winnipeg electoral district with 20 candidates vying for the seven available elected bencher seats. While the seat in the Northern electoral district was contested by two candidates, the candidates in the Eastern, Dauphin-Central and Western electoral districts were elected by acclamation as they were running unopposed. Thank you to all the candidates for their willingness to serve and everyone who registered their vote in advance of the May 6th deadline. You can see the results of the election on [page 7](#) of this issue.

CEO's MESSAGE continued...

Bencher Business

At their March meeting, the benchers received the final report and recommendations of the Admissions and Education Committee concerning the breadth and scope of the Law Society's good character requirements for admission to the profession. The benchers were largely satisfied with the nature and scope of disclosures required of applicants, although the Law Society will be improving upon its communications to the public and to law students.

The benchers received an update from the Equity Committee which is examining whether or not to impose mandatory minimum compensation for students who article in Manitoba. As a next step, the committee will be circulating a survey to students and articling principals.

The Director of the Professional Liability Claims Fund, **Tana Christianson**, reported to the benchers on how the insurance levy is established annually. In short, it involves a whole lot of actuarial work, based upon a variety of factors, including claims paid and investment performance.

Joint Meeting

Immediately following the bencher meeting, the benchers were joined by the Manitoba Bar Association Council for a Dragons' Den in which **Kyle Dear**, **Stacey Soldier** and **Bryton Moen** delivered fabulous pitches on how to best educate Canadians on the rule of law. As always, the session was thought-provoking and the benchers were very pleased to enjoy some good cheer, good food and refreshments with our friends at the MBA.



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.



New Executive Members

Congratulations to **Ken Mandzuik, KC** who will take over from Kyle Dear as President when the benchers next meet on May 14, 2026. Ken practises with Tradition Law LLP in Winnipeg. We extend warm congratulations to him as our 106th president. Congratulations as well to the newly elected Vice-President, **Sharyne Hamm**, who practises with Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP. They will commence their official duties at the May 2026 bencher meeting.



Ken Mandzuik, KC, President



Sharyne Hamm, Vice-President

New Benchers

Congratulations to the new slate of benchers elected on May 5, 2026. We are pleased to welcome new benchers **Maria M. Mitousis** and **Ian B. Scarth** (both from the Winnipeg Electoral District).

More details on the [2026 bencher election results](#) can be found on our website.

Congratulations go out to the following:

Elected Benchers



Kathrine Basarab



Jason B. Gisser



Sharyne Hamm



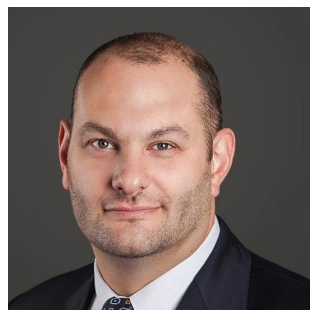
Maria M. Mitousis



Ian B. Scarth



Leah Unruh



Josh Weinstein



Simon Jack

Benchers by Acclamation



Kassy Baker



Mathieu R. Lafreniere



Trent Sholdice

BUILDING CONNECTIONS



Connections That Count: A Time of Networking and Community

The Law Society of Manitoba, in collaboration with the Manitoba Bar Association's Aboriginal Law Section, the Indigenous Lawyers' Forum, and the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association (MILSA), proudly hosted the eighth annual Building Connections networking event on Tuesday, March 24th.

The evening united Indigenous law and articling students with members of the legal profession from a broad range of practice areas, creating a dynamic and engaging atmosphere. Attendees enjoyed a mix of speed networking sessions and relaxed social time, fostering meaningful connections in a warm and inclusive setting.

Sincere thanks to our event partners, dedicated volunteers, and all who participated in making this year's event such a tremendous success.





**The Law Society
of Manitoba**

INCORPORATED 1877 | INCORPORÉ EN 1877

We're Hiring!

AUDITOR INSPECTOR

Audit

We are looking for a Chartered Professional Accountant to join our Audit Department.

Do you know someone motivated by the challenging work of learning different business processes and financial components of varying legal matters? Do they have an inquisitive nature and interest in compliance? Apply by Monday, May 11, 2026, or share this incredible opportunity with others who might be interested. Note audit experience is considered an asset but not a requirement for this position.

[View the full job posting here.](#)

Application Deadline: Monday, May 11, 2026

Congratulations!



Maria Mitousis

Recipient of the prestigious

Beverley McLachlin Access to Justice Award

from American College of Trial Lawyers.

LAW STUDENT REGISTRATION

What You Need to Know

NOELIA BERNARDO, Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor

Each year, many Manitoba law firms, government departments, and legal clinics hire or host law students or NCA students in summer, part-time, or volunteer roles.

In most cases, students must be registered with the Law Society before they begin any legal work.

Very few situations qualify as exceptions. If you believe a position may not require registration, confirm with the Law Society before the student begins.



When Registration is Required

Registration is required if a student is:

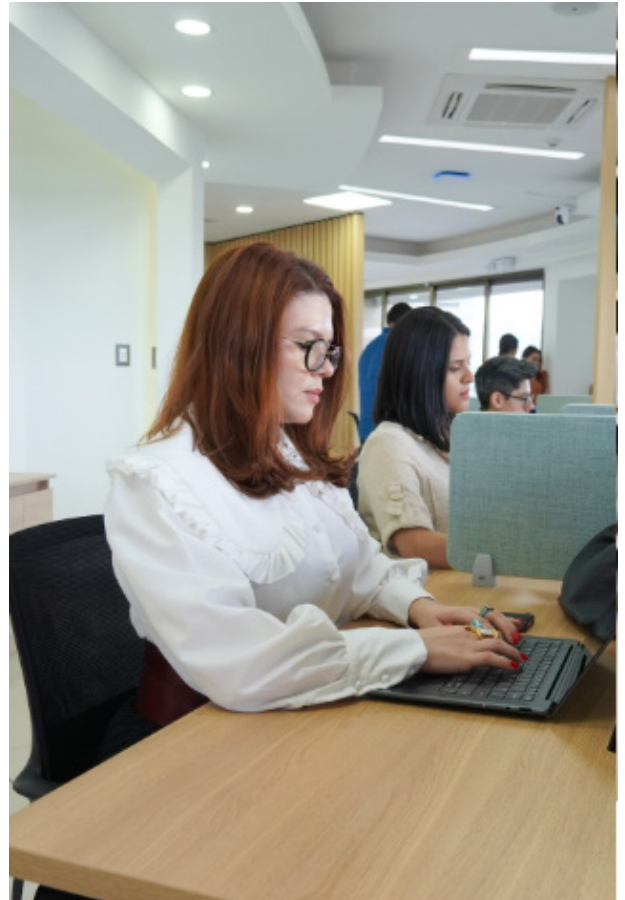
- Enrolled in a law degree program, or
- Registered to take or awaiting the results of examinations or courses prescribed by the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA), and
- Intending to work or volunteer in Manitoba in a role connected to legal work - whether paid or unpaid.

The student must be registered and approved to practise under the supervision of a Law Society approved supervising lawyer before starting.

LAW STUDENT REGISTRATION continued...

Examples of Work That Requires Registration

- Conducting legal research and writing memos that support advice or legal strategy
- Drafting client correspondence
- Preparing summaries of case law or legislation intended to support advice
- Assisting with file work or tasks directly related to a client matter (including where the client is the employer, such as a firm, government, or in-house legal department)
- Preparing materials for a legal proceeding or transaction
- Drafting legal documents (e.g., wills, contracts, incorporations, court documents, powers of attorney)
- Attending client meetings, discoveries, or hearings with a supervising lawyer
- Negotiating or assisting in resolving a legal matter
- Giving legal advice or guidance under supervision



If the work supports or advances a client's legal matter, it is likely the practice of law.

Work That Does Not Require Registration

Some roles do not require registration.

For example, academic legal research for a professor that is done for teaching or publication purposes - and not connected to a client matter - does not require registration.

If the work shifts from academic research to supporting a client matter, registration will be required.

LAW STUDENT REGISTRATION continued...

How to Register

1. Submit an application - [Registration as a Law Student Application/Renewal](#)
2. Provide proof of enrolment
3. Pay the registration fee
4. Submit any further requested documents

*For University of Manitoba law students, proof of enrolment and the registration fee are typically provided by the Faculty of Law.

Registration is valid for the period set out in the approval letter and must be renewed to remain in effect.

Registration will expire earlier if the student's law school enrolment ends, the student graduates, or the NCA Certificate of Qualification is issued.

The image shows a screenshot of a registration form from The Law Society of Manitoba. The form is titled "Registration as a Law Student Application / Renewal". It includes a note at the top stating that only students currently enrolled in an accredited law degree program or who are registered to take or are awaiting the results of examinations or courses prescribed by the NCA are eligible to apply for registration as law students. The form is divided into sections: "PART A - STUDENT REGISTRATION" and "PART B - FIRM REGISTRATION". The "PART A" section includes fields for Full Name, Current Mailing Address (City/Town, Prov, Postal Code), Email Address (Primary and Secondary), Telephone (Cell), Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD), Anticipated Date of Graduation (YYYY-MM), Gender (Male, Female, Non-Binary, Other), Placement Location for Students / Firm Name, and Placement / Firm Address. There are also checkboxes for "Please indicate whether you are registering:" with options for "with Pro Bono Students Canada", "as part of a clinical law course placement with the University of Manitoba", and "or in an employment/volunteer setting". A note at the bottom states that registration will commence upon approval by the Law Society and will end on August 31. The form is marked as "Page 1 of 3".

Students and supervising lawyers should promptly notify the Law Society if any of these events occur and ensure the student does not continue practising under an expired registration.

Related Article: [Who Can Speak? Student Appearances in Manitoba](#)

If in Doubt

If you are unsure whether a student's role requires registration, please contact the Law Society before the work begins:

Admissions & Membership | 204-942-5571 | membership@lawsociety.mb.ca

Practice Advisor – Noelia Bernardo | 204-926-2019 | practiceadvisor@lawsociety.mb.ca



INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED LAWYERS' SECTION MIXER

**MAY 19, 2026
5:00-7:00PM**

**LAW SOCIETY OF MANITOBA
200-260 ST MARY AVE**



MBA SOGIC RECEPTION

PRIDE WEEK NETWORKING EVENT

Open to all legal professionals, including allies

May 27, 2026 | Law Society of Manitoba | 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
200 - 260 St. Mary Ave.



Proudly organized by the MBA's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Community Section (SOGIC) and The Law Society of Manitoba.



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

Follow, Like, Share and Subscribe



Law Society

HEALTH RECOVERY PROGRAM

A positive alternative

Focusing on support, rehabilitation and recovery.

[Learn More](#)

LAW COURTS BUILDING ACCESS

Gaining access to the Law Courts Building through the “lawyers’ entrance” is a privilege reserved to those with appropriate identification. All lawyers must present their physical Law Society identification card each time they enter the building, regardless of whether they enter the building multiple times in one day. Anyone who does not have their card with them will be required to enter through the public entrance and proceed through the standard security screening process.



Members of the profession are reminded that security officers at the Law Courts building are to be treated with courtesy and respect when you are asked to present your identification.

NEED A COURT ACCESS CARD?



Order a
FAST TRACK PHOTO ID CARD
\$26.25

Contact SHARI LOUGH



slough@lawsociety.mb.ca



204-942-5571



THANK YOU!

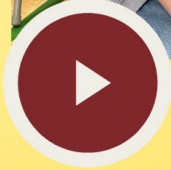
The 16th Annual Lawyers for Literacy Read-a-Thon on Saturday, March 14th was a wonderful success, thanks to the generosity of the legal community.

The children of WBYO and participating lawyers and law students shared a lively and heartwarming day filled with stories, laughter, and connection.



Together we raised **\$5,993.00** for 2026!

VIEW VIDEO



Lawyers for Literacy 2026



Making a Difference



One Page at a Time



WHO CAN SPEAK?

Student Appearances in Manitoba

NOELIA BERNARDO, Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor



A student asks, *"Can I handle that short appearance?"*

Before even getting to the question of which court and what type of matter, there is first an essential step: the student must be **properly registered with the Law Society and approved to practise under supervision**.

Only individuals who are registered as an articling student or law student - and who are practising under the control, supervision, and authority of a Law Society-approved principal or supervising lawyer - may engage in supervised legal practice.

Supervised legal practice includes more than appearing in court. It may involve drafting legal documents, preparing materials for proceedings or transactions, conducting research that supports legal advice, attending client meetings, negotiating matters, or giving legal advice under supervision. If the student's work supports or advances a client's legal matter, it is likely the practice of law.

WHO CAN SPEAK? continued...

A person who merely intends to article with a firm in the future but who is not currently registered as an articling student, is not authorized to practise law in any capacity - including making appearances, speaking on the record, or acting for clients.

Once this threshold requirement is met, the next question becomes: can the student speak in this court or tribunal, and on what terms?

That answer depends on two things: which court or tribunal you are in and whether the student is an articling student or a registered law student.

It is important to remember that **courts and tribunals - not the Law Society - determine rights of audience.**

Even where an articling student or a registered law student may participate, **the principal or supervising lawyer remains responsible for the file** and should plan to attend unless the court or tribunal has expressly said otherwise.

If a student does appear, they must identify themselves as an articling student or a registered law student and name their principal or supervising lawyer, including on any written materials.

**Registration with the Law Society allows supervised practice.
It does not create a right of audience before a court or tribunal.**

Registered Law Students (Pre-Articling)

The default position is observe only.

The Court of King's Bench contemplates law students addressing the court, but only with the supervising lawyer present and with the judge's permission.

Where protocols do not address law students - including the Manitoba Court of Appeal and the Provincial Court of Manitoba - participation only should occur with leave of the court and with the supervising lawyer attending.



WHO CAN SPEAK? continued...

Articling students

Courts may allow limited roles for articling students, always at the discretion of the judge.



- **Manitoba Court of Appeal (MBCA):** Articling students do not argue substantive appeals. Chambers participation may be permitted with leave.

[\(Protocol on Articling Students Appearing in the Manitoba Court of Appeal, Dec 8, 2021.\)](#)

- **Manitoba Court of King's Bench (MBKB):** Articling students may appear without the principal only for a narrow list of matters, including: estreatals; protection-order lists and set-asides; bail reviews (not initial hearings); uncontested civil motions; leave or appeals from small claims; and straightforward contested procedural motions. In all other matters the principal should attend.

[\(Protocol on Articling Students Appearing in the Manitoba Court of King's Bench, Mar 15, 2023 - also references law students with the principal present.\)](#)

- **Provincial Court of Manitoba (MBPC):** There is no current posted protocol on the court's website specific to student appearances. An older Administrative Court notice addresses articling students, requiring identification of status and principal and noting that the court may require counsel to attend. Local practice may have evolved so it is important to confirm with the registry in advance if a student is proposed to address the court.

[Notice - Provincial Court of Manitoba - Re: Administrative Court \(October 28, 2008\)](#)

Prosecution carve-out: *The Crown Attorneys Act*, s. 3(2) permits an articling student to act as a Crown attorney in chambers or in Provincial Court summary conviction matters. This is prosecution-specific and does not create a general right of audience for articling students.

WHO CAN SPEAK? continued...

Tribunals

Rights of audience come from the tribunal's **enabling statute, regulations, and rules**. Some permit agents; others do not. Always confirm in advance with the tribunal office and ensure the scope of the student's participation - and supervision - is clear.

Good Practice

Before any planned appearance:

- Check the current court/tribunal protocol.
- If there is any uncertainty, confirm with the registry in advance whether the student may address the matter and on what terms.
- Plan to attend and remain responsible as supervising counsel or principal.

Related Article: [Law Student Registration - What You Need to Know \(pre-articling registration & supervision\)](#)

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

Excess Insurance

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance

If you are a lawyer required to be insured in Manitoba, you have insurance of \$1 million per claim per year (with a \$2 million annual aggregate limit). For some lawyers and firms, this is no longer enough to protect a lawyer's practice and personal assets. Fortunately, if your firm needs additional protection, our own Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association (CLIA) offers additional coverage from \$1 million to \$34 million in excess of that \$1 million mandatory base.

Only you can decide how much is enough coverage for your practice. Excess coverage is not just for higher risk areas of law or large firms. With rising costs, many transaction files and civil and family litigation files can creep into the \$1 million exposure level. Also, the cost of litigating a claim against you and your firm erodes that coverage limit.



Things to consider when making your decision to buy excess insurance:

1

Does Your Client Require It?

Some clients require proof of excess insurance. Lenders may dictate that the lawyer has insurance at a level that matches a loan advance. Some government agencies or corporate clients may require proof of a minimum level of insurance that is higher than the mandatory \$1 million as a condition of the retainer. You can buy excess from CLIA now or at any time throughout the year, but remember, coverage purchased with a single transaction in mind should be renewed as long as the possibility of a claim relating to that transaction still exists.

EXCESS INSURANCE continued...

2 Do You or Your Partners Practise in an Area of Law with a Higher Risk of Many Claims or of Larger Claims?

Some areas of law consistently result in more frequent claims. For instance, real estate files account for the highest number of claims by volume, but these are usually less costly per claim. Missed limitations or dismissals for delay on medical malpractice or personal injury files, or securities or tax law related claims arise less frequently, but damages tend to be more severe. When you are deciding whether to purchase excess insurance and in what amount, consider whether your practice and that of your partners and associates falls into areas of law that are high risk for frequent claims or high risk for severity.

3 Do You Handle Large Dollar Value Files?

You should also assess the potential quantum of damages arising out of potential claims. Valuable estates, farm transactions and family law files where the value of assets is high all have the potential to develop into large claims. Personal injury, including medical malpractice, has potentially high value if limitations are missed or claims are dismissed for delay. If you and your firm seldom deal with matters where more than \$500,000 is at issue, you may not feel such a pressing need. However, large claims continue to arise out of unforeseen areas of law. For instance, ten years ago, we did not expect to see drafting and executing wills as a top five area of law for frequency of claims. We also did not expect ineffective counsel at first instance to be a common ground of appeal in criminal law, with resulting claims.

4 Could Large Defence Expenses Erode Your \$1 Million Coverage?

You should also remember that it is not only the indemnity or damage payment which might ultimately erode the limits of your insurance. Defence costs eat into your coverage limits. There have been claims in Canada where costs incurred in defending lawyers in complex legal malpractice suits have exceeded \$1 million, with the mandatory limit totally gone before damages are paid. We have had several professional liability files in Manitoba where legal defence costs were more than \$700,000 (preliminary motions, multiple parties, expensive experts and then lengthy trials, appeals and leave applications all add up). The cost of defending these claims dramatically decreases the amount left to satisfy damage awards.

5 Do You Have a Large Tolerance for Personal Risk?

In the United States, only two states require lawyers to have any professional liability insurance. Lawyers 'creditor proof' themselves against claims by clients and hope that they don't make any mistakes. Consider whether you are comfortable being personally exposed to a claim that exceeds \$1 million.

EXCESS INSURANCE continued...

How Excess Insurance Differs From Your Mandatory Coverage

Like most excess liability policies, CLIA's excess liability program is “**Claims Made**” meaning that you will need to have insurance in place when a claim is made and **not** when the work was done. It is not transaction-based coverage. You can't buy insurance specific to a particular file or deal. Firms that do not renew their excess insurance will not have coverage for losses reported after the expiry date of the policy. So, if you purchased coverage with a specific transaction in mind, that coverage will need to be renewed as long as the possibility of a claim arising out of that transaction is still out there.

Excess insurance is different from mandatory coverage in this respect. On your mandatory coverage, as long as you had insurance at the date of the alleged error, you are covered for that claim even if, when the claim is presented, you are no longer insured, practising or alive. Mandatory coverage stays with you forever. Excess insurance does not.

Excess Insurance for Retired Lawyers

Lawyers contemplating retirement often call us about continuing coverage. If you were insured under the mandatory coverage when you did the work, you continue to have \$1 million mandatory coverage even if you are no longer practising when a claim is made. But, depending on your practice before you retired, you may need more than that \$1 million mandatory limit of coverage to give you comfort in your retirement. CLIA is able to provide retired inactive lawyers with excess insurance at a discounted rate. Check with your accountant, but for most retired lawyers, that premium would also be tax deductible.



Your Report to Us at the Law Society Insurance Program is an Automatic Report to CLIA.

Purchasing your excess liability coverage through CLIA provides you with seamless coverage. Your initial report to Professional Liability Claims Fund staff here in Manitoba is deemed a report to CLIA. So, if a claim that initially looked like it wasn't going anywhere suddenly and unexpectedly takes a bad turn some years later, you will still be covered, because it was considered reported to your CLIA excess insurer at day one. Insurers other than CLIA may deny if they do not receive an early report on that unlikely claim.

If you would like more information on this year's CLIA Excess Program, excess coverage for retired lawyers, or cyber insurance, please contact CLIA at service@clia.ca. **The online application to apply for voluntary insurance products will be on CLIA's website in May.** However, if you can't make your mind up right away, you can also buy excess insurance at any time during the year on a prorated basis.

Only you can assess your firm's exposure to a claim or series of claims that might take you over the mandatory \$1 million limit or the annual \$2 million aggregate limit. It is worth taking some time and considering your exposure and that of your firm.

SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director of Insurance

Your current professional liability insurance policy will expire July 1, 2026 at 12:01 a.m. So, if you think there is an issue on one of your files that might possibly, at some point in the future, give rise to an insurance claim against you, report it now.

Why Report Potential Claims Now?

Your new policy only covers claims if you had no knowledge of the claim or potential claim before July 1, 2026 and could not have reasonably foreseen that a claim might arise. That means if you want coverage and are aware of a problem or have a file keeping you up at night, report before July 1, 2026 when the current policy runs out.

What Should You Report?

Report all files that have the potential to turn into a claim where:

- 1) You think you might have made an error or are concerned about a file;
or,
- 2) Someone is making allegations (even unmeritorious allegations) against you.

How Should You Report?

Call or e-mail

Tana Christianson	204-926-2011	e-mail: tchristianson@lawsociety.mb.ca
Kate Craton	204-926-2012	e-mail: kcraton@lawsociety.mb.ca
Will Barnstead	204-926-2013	e-mail: wbarnstead@lawsociety.mb.ca
Robert Walichnowski	204-926-2024	email: rwalichnowski@lawsociety.mb.ca

Or email pliclaims@lawsociety.mb.ca

Or, go to the [Member Portal](#) on the Law Society website and fill in and submit a Claim Report form. If you would like a form mailed or e-mailed to you, contact:

Kristin Forbister	204-926-2047	e-mail: kforbister@lawsociety.mb.ca
Heather Vanrobaeys	204-926-2036	e-mail: hvanrobaeys@lawsociety.mb.ca

Late reporting can compromise your insurance coverage,
so speak now or forever hold your peace.



Practice Management **QUICK TIPS**

To Make Practice (and Life) Easier



TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director - Insurance

A well-managed law practice allows you to do the real work of lawyering more effectively, with fewer professional liability claims and less headaches. Barney Christianson, KC, the Law Society's Practice Management Advisor, may be able to help you get there. He 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.

QUISHING - Another Way to Scam You

If you have not heard of Quishing before, you are about to. Scammers are increasingly using visually polished QR codes with logos, colors, and custom shapes that still scan cleanly while masking malicious links. These "fancy" codes are harder to spot as suspicious and often get scanned on mobile devices outside normal security controls.

Learn more about [QR code phishing \(quishing\)](#).



Don't Fall into the Urgency Trap



The false sense of urgency rampant in our society has been a problem for lawyers for some time now. But manufactured urgency in an email is also a red flag for phishing. Read on about the [Urgency Trap](#).

Microsoft 365 Automations

This post lists some [Microsoft 365 automations](#) that can save time. They have been around for some time so you might be using some of them already. But if you have forgotten some of them or just need a refresher, here you go.

Why Reinvent the Wheel? Use Templates in Outlook and Word

Read about options to use [templates in Microsoft](#) – another great time saver.



How Much Data do you Really Have/Need?

Things to Think About When Migrating to a New Document Management System

Law firms often make assumptions about how much data they have when planning document management migrations. Unfortunately, those assumptions are often wrong.

[This article](#) can help you realistically assess the volume of data you have and how much cleanup has to occur before you migrate to a new document management system or a cloud platform.

iPhone Notes Hidden Features



If you use an iPhone, you may not be using all the great features in Notes.

CHECK IT OUT



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.





TAMARA MCCAFFREY, Program Director

At the **Northern Bar Conference** in Thompson in March, I spoke about the importance of Connection to enhance our well-being, which allows us to practice better and sustainably. Thank you to the Law Society of Manitoba and the Northern Bar for putting this wonderful event together, giving us all a chance to connect and have fun while learning from each other.

May 4 to 8 is **Mental Health Awareness Week**



The theme: Come Together Canada. The Canadian Mental Health Association calls on organizations and leaders to create intentional space for **connection** at work.

Because **without connection, there is loneliness and isolation.** You can feel disconnected and alone even when surrounded by people.

Loneliness is a health risk. In addition to depressive symptoms, loneliness can increase thoughts of self-harm and suicide; cause high blood pressure and inflammation in the body. There is also a 29% increased risk of heart disease, and 32% increased risk of stroke. All of these stressors can lead to faster aging and decline, and even earlier mortality.

The **Law(yer) Strong** peer support program is grounded in connection. We connect members of the legal community with supportive peers, providing confidential and non-judgmental support, information about how to access programs and resources. One connection at a time, we are fostering a compassionate legal community in Manitoba. We thrive when we feel we belong, and research repeatedly demonstrates, that positive relationships help to **protect** us from some of the negative effects of high pressure, conflict and emotional demands. Visit www.lawyerstrong-mb.ca to get involved, and learn more about our programs.



lawyerstrong-mb.ca



support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca



204-201-1764

Well-Being Week in Law: Tending Joy: “Joy Helps Us Thrive, Not Just Survive”

Positive Feelings at Work – creates positive connections with other. Joy helps positive relationships to develop. Positive relationships give us joy.

Professor Lawrence Krieger’s 2015 study of [what makes lawyers happy](#) found that relationships, autonomy and overall connectedness – with one’s values, and with others - were overwhelmingly present in happy thriving legal professionals.



Check out this podcast [Path To Well-Being In Law – Episode 15: Larry Krieger](#) where Professor Krieger talks about choosing a joyful life in law.

For a toolkit to create connection in the workplace visit [The Canadian Mental Health Association](#) and [The Well-Being Week in Law website](#).

Upcoming EVENTS

TBA

SAFETALK – Half day suicide awareness training

Contact us to register

Date will be set once 10 registrants are confirmed.

21
May

Retired Lawyers Coffee Circle

🕒 10:30am

📍 The Forks Market, 2nd Floor

Thursday

12
June

Annual General Meeting

🕒 Noon

Register by email: admin@lawyerstrong.mb.ca

Friday

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AWARENESS WEEK

April 19 to 25, 2026

When we explore the profound impact of connection on our wellness, we are reminded that the bonds we form can literally be life-saving.

Last month the American Bar Association Journal featured an inspirational story that perfectly captures this: [an associate donated a kidney to law firm partner she had never met](#). It's a powerful reminder that we are all part of a larger community, and it highlights the incredible impact one individual can have on another's life.

We can honor this spirit of connection and give the gift of life by registering our decision to be an organ and tissue donor by registering online at [signupforlife.ca](https://www.signupforlife.ca)



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](#)



FREE Well-Being Webinars

Our Professional Liability insurer, CLIA (The Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association), is offering four free **one-hour** CPD webinars in May in partnership with the Law Society of Saskatchewan. Live French translation will also be available.

[Click here](#) for more information on the programs.



May 13, 2026 at 1:00 pm

From Law School Debt to Financial Confidence

Mark Binder, Manitoba Blue Cross

[Register](#)

May 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm

How to be a Lawyer and a Human Being at the Same Time

Doron Gold, The Lawyer Therapist

[Register](#)

May 28, 2026 at 1:00 pm

Nutrition as Self Care: A Non-Diet, Additive Approach to Well-Being

Brooke Bulloch, Food to Fit Nutrition Inc.

[Register](#)



CALL *to the* BAR

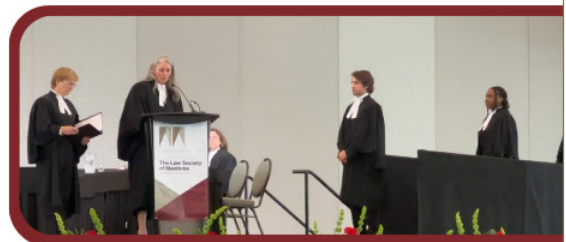
Friday, June 19, 2026
9:00 a.m.

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



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](#)

If your firm has just decided to participate in the recruitment of articling students for the 2027-2028 cycle, it is not too late. Please send your Firm Profile to the recipients listed in the Guidelines by noon on May 8, 2026.

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



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
Registration Opens	May 11, 2026	May 11, 2026
REGISTRATION DEADLINE	May 22, 2026	June 5, 2026
DEADLINE TO PAY 1 st Tuition Instalment	May 22, 2026	June 5, 2026
PhHASE ONE: Course Opens	June 8, 2026	June 22, 2026
DEADLINE TO PAY 2 nd 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 3 rd 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 are expected to not provide assignments to students enrolled in the **Accelerated PREP Program** between June 8, 2026 and August 21, 2026.

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

PREP TUITION SUBSIDY

Students registered with the Law Society as an articling student member are eligible for the PREP tuition subsidy.

PILOT 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.

NOTICE OF BENCHERS' MEETING

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



Thursday, May 14 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.



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:

- June 18, 2026
- 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](#).

IN MEMORIAM

Brenda Katherine Matte, who passed away on January 23, 2026 at the age of 73. Ms. Matte received her call to the Bar on June 27, 1985. She practised as an associate and sole practitioner for six years and then served as inhouse counsel with Great-West Life Assurance Company for three years. She retired from practice in 1997.

Honourable Gerald Oliver Jewers, who passed away on February 2, 2026 at the age of 93. Mr. Jewers received his call to the Bar on September 17, 1956. He practised as an associate and partner for 21 years before being appointed a County Court judge in 1978 and then a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in 1984. Mr. Jewers retired from the bench in 2007. In 2011 he returned to private practice, serving as an arbitrator and a volunteer at the Legal Help Centre for 13 years. He retired from practice in 2024. Mr. Jewers served as President of the Manitoba Bar Association in 1975 and also was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1975.



NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

Douglas Albert Mayer

Pursuant to a resolution of a Panel of the Discipline Committee of The Law Society of Manitoba, **DOUGLAS ALBERT MAYER** was found guilty of professional misconduct and is suspended from the practice of law for a period of eight (8) months, commencing on April 1, 2026 through to and including November 30, 2026.

March 24, 2026

Leah Kosokowsky
Chief Executive Officer

Issued: March 24, 2026

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

Take the Next Step Connect with



All contacts are confidential



204-201-1764



support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca



www.lawyerstrong-mb.ca

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. It's easy to skim or read in depth. If you'd like to subscribe, let us know by emailing library@lawsociety.mb.ca.

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

CLIA Well-Being Webinars



CLIA, in partnership with the Law Society of Saskatchewan, is hosting **FREE** one-hour **well-being webinars** in May.

From Law School Debt to Financial Confidence

May 13 | 1:00 p.m.

How to be a Lawyer and a Human Being at the Same Time

May 14 | 1:00 p.m.

Nutrition as Self Care: A Non-Diet, Additive Approach to Well-Being

May 28 | 1:00 p.m.

[Learn More and Register](#)

On-Demand Resources

Our live programs will start up again in September.

Until then, take advantage of **24/7 access** to **100+ high-quality on-demand resources!**

60+

Program Recordings and eCourses

[View](#)

3

Cyber Security eLearning Bytes

[View](#)



50+

Written Practice Resources

[View](#)

3

Anti-Money Laundering eLearning Bytes

[View](#)

Upcoming IMPORTANT DATES At a Glance

May 14
BENCHER MEETING
12:30 p.m.

May 19
INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED LAWYERS' SECTION MIXER
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

May 27
MBA SOGIC RECEPTION
Law Society of Manitoba
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 18
**ANNUAL MEETING
AND
BENCHER MEETING**
12:30 p.m.

JUNE 19
CALL TO THE BAR
RBC Convention Centre
9:00 a.m.

JULY 2

PAYMENT DUE:
2026-2027 Insurance Payment

FILING DEADLINE:
2026-2027 Insurance Exemption Application



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

