



MINUTES

Benchers

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021

Time: 1:25 pm

Location: Via Videoconference

Present:	Grant Driedger, President Sacha Paul, Vice President Lynda Troup, Past President Susan Boulter, Officer-at-Large Mason Broadfoot Miriam Browne Kyle Dear Paul Grower Tehani Jainarine Anthony Kavanagh Patricia Kloepfer	Anna Maria Magnifico Kenneth Mandzuik Brian McLeod Wayne Onchulenko Anu Osborne Joëlle Pastora Sala Kelli Potter Jessica Saunders Vincent Sinclair Gerri Wiebe Christine Williams
Regrets:	Acting Dean David Asper, Q.C. Ashley Joyce	Christian Monnin
Guests:	Dr. Richard Jochelson	Erin Wilcott
Staff Present:	Leah Kosokowsky Rennie Stonyk Sandra Alleyne Noelia Bernardo Pat Bourbonnais Natasha Brown Tana Christianson Eileen Derksen	Joan Holmstrom Ashley Korsunsky Colleen Malone Deirdre O'Reilly Sean Rivera Alissa Schacter Darcia Senft Rhiannon Swan

1.0 President's Welcome and Treaty Acknowledgement

Mr. Driedger, President, called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.0 In Memoriam

Benchers observed a moment of silence for Harry Charles Peters, John Kenneth Beatty, John Loring Patrick Sinclair, the Honourable Sidney Schwartz and Ram Kishore Agrawal.

3.0 Consent Agenda

3.1 Minutes of May 20, 2021 Meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on May 20, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOVED: Ms Osborne

Seconded: Ms Magnifico

Carried.

3.2 Appointment of Equity Committee Member

Motion: That Joseph Pelletier be appointed to serve as a member of the Equity Committee.

MOVED: Ms Jainarine

Seconded: Mr. Sinclair

Carried.

3.3 2017 - 2020 Strategic Plan Update - June 2021

Benchers received for information an update on the status of the 2017 - 2020 Strategic Plan as at June 2021.

4.0 Executive Reports

4.1 President's Report

Benchers received for information Mr. Driedger's report dated June 9, 2021. Congratulations were extended to the following award recipients who had attained the four highest standings in third year law:

Alexa Smith	Margaret Hypatia Crawford Prize for highest standing in third year Law	\$1,500
Nicholas Noonan	2 nd highest Prize	\$1,250
Autumn Giles	3 rd highest Prize	\$1,000
Sarah McGuire	4 th highest Prize	\$750

4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

Benchers received for information Ms Kosokowsky's report dated June 8, 2021. Ms Kosowsky confirmed that the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the law societies of Manitoba and Alberta, and the Barreau du Québec will each be seeking leave to intervene in the Law Society of Saskatchewan's appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada in the Abrametz matter.

Ms Kosokowsky advised that there were 100 Manitoba students enrolled in the June 2021 intake of the PREP program plus an additional 12 students whose applications were pending approval. Another 20 students are enrolled in the December intake. Benchers were advised that these numbers will continue to increase as more students secure articling positions.

Benchers were advised that the chief executive officer of the Canadian Bar Association had resigned and that Mr. Regehr, president of the CBA, will cover both positions until a new CEO has been hired.

4.3 Strategic Planning

Benchers considered Ms Kosokowsky's memorandum, dated June 8, 2021, which outlined the planning process which is being utilized by the strategic planning facilitator in preparation for the retreat scheduled for September 9 and 10, 2021 in Clear Lake, Manitoba. Benchers were asked to review the materials and complete the online survey prepared by the facilitator by August 4, 2021.

5.0 Discussion/Decision

5.1 Recommendations for Appointments to the Indigenous Advisory Committee

Benchers considered a memorandum prepared by Ms Schacter, dated June 8, 2021, which recommended that, as prescribed by the Terms of Reference for the committee, the following benchers and public representatives be appointed to serve as members of the Indigenous Advisory Committee for a term of two years: Jessica Saunders (vice-chairperson), Knowledge Keeper E.J. Fontaine, Knowledge Keeper Eva Wilson-Fontaine, Desiree Dorian, Kenneth Mandzuik, Elissa Neville, Vincent Sinclair and Frankie Snider. Benchers were reminded that at their meeting held on February 11, 2021, the Honourable Murray Sinclair had been appointed to serve as chairperson of the committee.

Motion: That Ms Saunders (vice-chairperson), Mr. Fontaine, Ms Wilson-Fontaine, Ms Dorian, Mr. Mandzuik, Ms Neville, Mr. Sinclair and Ms Snider be appointed to serve as members of the Indigenous Advisory Committee for a period of two years.

MOVED: Ms Magnifico
Seconded: Mr. McLeod
Abstention: Mr. Sinclair
Carried.

5.2 Peer Support Program Proposal

Benchers considered a memorandum prepared by the Peer Support Working Group, dated June 10, 2021, which provided a detailed proposal for the formation of a Peer Support Program for members and articling students registered with the Law Society of Manitoba. Benchers were invited to provide feedback on the proposal and were also asked to consider and approve the following recommendations contained within the memorandum:

1. Benchers approve the proposal and direct the working group to take the steps necessary to establish the non-profit organization and appoint the initial board of directors who will then move this project forward.
2. Benchers approve the request for the initial start-up funding of \$32,000 and a further \$40,000 to fund the Peer Support Coordinator position for the next fiscal year, ending in March 2023.

Benchers wondered how the peer support volunteers would be recruited. Ms Wiebe advised that, with input and direction from the initial board of directors, the Peer Support Coordinator would be responsible for both the development and delivery of the program.

This would include development of a communications strategy to recruit volunteers and promote the program within the profession.

Motion: That the recommendations of the Peer Support Working Group be approved as presented.

MOVED: Mr. Kavanagh
Seconded: Mr. Mandzuik
Carried.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Access to Justice Steering Committee

Ms Wiebe and Mr. McLeod provided an oral report on the work of the Access to Justice Steering Committee. Benchers were advised that a subcommittee had been established to review and propose amendments to the existing Terms of Reference to bring an Indigenous lens to the work of the committee while also recognizing other historically disadvantaged groups and individuals. Benchers were advised that once the amendments have been approved by the Steering Committee, they will be presented to benchers for final approval.

The preliminary draft amendments were reviewed with benchers. Benchers confirmed their support for the work being undertaken by the subcommittee as well as the proposed draft amendments to the Terms of Reference. It was suggested, however, that persons with disabilities should also be recognized within the Terms of Reference.

Benchers were reminded that because this committee is comprised of representatives from several key stakeholder organizations, stakeholder objectives are set by consensus rather than flowing from the direction of benchers. As it is anticipated that the committee will be in a position to effect meaningful change to access now that the Access to Justice Coordinator is in place, benchers were asked to consider whether there were any specific access initiatives which they believed ought to be given priority by the committee. Bencher agreed that further discussion on this issue should be deferred to the strategic planning retreat as it is expected that access to justice will again form an integral part of the new strategic plan.

7.0 Miscellaneous Business

7.1 FLSC Council Report

Benchers received for information Ms Troup's report, dated June 8, 2021, on the Federation Council meeting which had been held on June 7, 2021.

7.2 Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Model Rules

Benchers received for information Ms Kosokowsky's memorandum, dated June 9, 2021, which outlined the work being undertaken by two Federation sub-committees and a working group flowing from recent amendments to the model rules on anti-money laundering and terrorist financing.

7.3 Manitoba Blue Cross - Health and Wellness Report

Benchers received for information Ms Kosowsky's memorandum, dated June 9, 2021, which provided statistical information on the support services which had been accessed through Manitoba Blue Cross by members and articling students for the period covering May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021. It was noted that the highest rate of engagement (45%) was by members who had been practising for five years or less and that the second highest cohort (14%) were by members who had been practising for ten years or less. Benchers were advised that these numbers were consistent with data from other Canadian law societies.

8.0 For Information

Benchers considered the materials provided for information.

It was requested that at an upcoming meeting benchers be provided with a report on the cybersecurity measures which are in place to protect the Law Society from cybercrime and ransomware.

There being no further business, Mr. Driedger adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.