

# MINUTES

## Benchers

Date:	Friday, September 9, 2022	
Time:	12:00 p.m.	
Location:	Lakeview Gimli Resort, Gimli, Manitoba and via Teleconference	
Present:	Sacha Paul, President Wayne Onchulenko, Vice President Grant Driedger, Past President Miriam Browne, Officer-at-Large Susan Boulter Mason Broadfoot Kyle Dear Serena Ehrmantraut Blair Filyk Sharyne Hamm Kameron Hutchinson Teresa Jaenen Tehani Jainarine	Dr. Richard Jochelson Anthony Kavanagh Leah Klassen Tyler Koshowski Mathieu Lafreniere Kenneth Mandzuik Brian McLeod Christian Monnin Carmen Nedohin Joëlle Pastora Sala Kelli Potter Gerri Wiebe
Guests:	Lynda Troup	
Staff Present:	Leah Kosokowsky Rennie Stonyk Pat Bourbonnais Natasha Brown Tana Christianson Eileen Derksen	Colleen Malone Deirdre O'Reilly Richard Porcher Sean Rivera Alissa Schacter Darcia Senft

## 1.0 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND TREATY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Paul, President, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting, Treaty territory 1 was acknowledged with gratitude.

## 2.0 IN MEMORIAM

Benchers observed a moment of silence for Patricia Grace Ritchie, Q.C., Louise Anna Lamb, Glen Lawrence Nazaruk, Hasmukhlal Devshanker Pandya, David Paul Tackaberry and the Honourable Charles Nathan Rubin.

## 3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

### 3.1 Minutes of June 23, 2022 Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 2022 were approved as presented.

### 3.2 Final Approval of Rule Amendments: Diversion Program

The rule amendments pertaining to Part 5, Division 6 and Division 7 were approved in both English and French as presented.

### 3.3 Complaints Investigation Committee

Benchers received for information the report of the Complaints Investigation Committee.

### 3.3 Discipline Committee Reports

Benchers received for information the reports of the Discipline Committee.

Motion: That the Consent Agenda items be approved as presented.

MOVED: Mr. Driedger  
Seconded: Ms Nedohin  
Carried.

Mr. Onchulenko joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

## 4.0 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### 4.1 President's Report

Mr. Paul reported to benchers on his attendance at the Faculty of Law Welcome Reception held on September 6, 2022 for the first year law students.

### 4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

Benchers received for information Ms Kosokowsky's report dated August 31, 2022. Benchers were advised that a welcome reception will be held at the Law Society on September 29, 2022 for the students from Manitoba who are enrolled in the fall PREP program. Benchers were also advised that members of the Executive Committee will be attending the Federation of Law Societies of Canada annual conference on October 12 and 13, 2022 in Saskatoon. This conference will focus on competency-based learning for legal professionals.

### 4.3 Strategic Plan Progress Report - August 2022

Benchers received for information the August 2022 progress report on the Strategic Plan for the 2022 - 2025 period. Ms Kosokowsky advised that she and Ms Brown will be meeting with representatives of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc. to raise awareness about the Society's mandate to protect the public interest and to also share information about the Society's sandbox pilot program.

## 5.0 MONITORING REPORTS

### 5.1 Admissions and Membership Department

Benchers received for information a monitoring report, dated September 1, 2022, which reported on operations within the Admissions and Membership Department. The report included detailed information on key emerging issues which staff will be closely monitoring over the coming year.

### 5.2 Pension Plan Update

Benchers received for information a monitoring report on the Staff Pension Plan, dated August 26, 2022. Benchers were advised that a Pension Review Committee will be established to explore whether changes to the existing pension plan ought to be made and if so, how that might be done.

### 5.3 Investment Policies and Investment Compliance - June 30, 2022

Benchers received for information a monitoring report on the Society's Investment Policies and investment performance, dated August 30, 2022, for the period ending June 30, 2022. Benchers were advised that amendments to the Investment Policies were approved by the Investment Committee on August 6, 2022 and that with respect to the Society's investment portfolio, investments continue to exceed established benchmarks in both the Reserve Fund and the Staff Pension Plan.

## 6.0 MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

### 6.1 Access to Justice Coordinator - Transition

Benchers considered a memorandum prepared by Ms Kosokowsky, dated September 1, 2022, which reported on the activities of the Access to Justice Coordinator since Ms Brown had accepted this position in May of 2021. Benchers were reminded that as part of the current Strategic Plan, they had directed that the Society transition from its existing role as coordinator of stakeholders within the access to justice legal community and instead focus its efforts on pursuing Law Society initiatives which will improve access to justice for Manitobans. Accordingly, a proposal has been made to the Manitoba Law Foundation to

move the coordinator position to the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law in 2023 where Ms Brown will have access to a significantly broader range of resources to support and enhance her work.

## 7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 7.1 Indigenous Advisory Committee

Ms Schacter reported to benchers on the meetings of the Indigenous Advisory Committee held on June 30, 2022 and August 24, 2022 which focused on the development of the Manitoba-specific content of the mandatory Indigenous intercultural awareness and competency training program which will be available to members effective April 1, 2023. The committee will again meet in October, at which time committee members will view a portion of this module in its intended form based on the direction provided by the committee. It is anticipated that benchers will also have an opportunity to preview a segment of the program before it is delivered to the profession.

## 8.0 FOR INFORMATION

Benchers considered the materials provided for information.

There being no further business, Mr. Paul adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.