

Aboriginal Law Section Report – 2009/2010

Aimée Craft and Allison Fenske, Co-Chairs

The following highlights the CLEs and events held in 2009-2010. Once again, the organizers and participants made this year a successful one.

- 1) CLE on Business with First Nations 101: Legal and Political Realities (*November 24, 2009*)
 - Jeff Harris and Sacha Paul, both practitioners in the area, ably presented their perspectives on issues that arise for legal counsel acting on behalf of First Nations.
- 2) Letter to the Manitoba Law Reform Commission regarding the Report for Consultation on the Limitations of Actions Act (*November, 2009*)
- 3) Aboriginal Student Reception (*January 5, 2010*)
 - The 3rd annual Aboriginal Student and Bar reception was held at TDS. The goal of the reception is to initiate aboriginal students to practitioners in the aboriginal law field – keynote speaker, Chief Judge Ken Champagne, Manitoba Provincial Court.
- 3) MBA Mid-Winter CLE (*January 22, 2010*)
 - Compensation for Impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty rights
 - Quantifying impacts on Treaty and Aboriginal rights is no easy task. Often, compensation is used as a means to address those impacts. Our expert panel, composed of Professor Cherie Metcalf (Queen's University Faculty of Law), Professor Brenda Gunn (University of Manitoba Faculty of Law) and Bob Adkins (Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP) enthusiastically debated the theoretical justifications for compensation and the proposed approaches to quantifying impacts.
- 5) Think Tank on Human Rights (*April 27, 2010*)
 - Hosted by Canadian Human Rights Commission, Manitoba Human Rights Commission, Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba
- 6) CLE on Researching Issues Specific to Aboriginal Law (*May 28, 2010*)
 - Ralph Abrahamson (Director, Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research Centre) and Gord Hannon (Counsel, Civil Legal Services, Manitoba Justice) presented on research tips and resources for legal counsel working in the area of aboriginal claims or working for First Nations.
 - Co-hosted with the MBA Research Section
- 7) CLE on Aboriginal Income Tax – Section 87 of the Indian Activities (*June 4, 2010*)
 - Paul Grower and Janesca Kidd (Fillmore Riley) and Jeff Pniowsky (TDS) presented on the issue of tax exemptions under the Indian Act and recent developments in this complex area of law.
- 8) Year end meeting (*June 14, 2010*)
 - Discussed the upcoming CLEs and election of Executive.