

## Civil Litigation Section Report 2013-14

The Civil Litigation Section Executive for 2013 – 2014 consisted of:

- Trevor Brown, Chair (MPI – Legal Services)
- Alison McCullough-Butchart, Vice-Chair (Residential Tenancies Commission)
- Kathryn Hordienko, Co-Secretary (Myers Weinberg LLP)
- John Martens, Co-Secretary (Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP)
- Bailey Harris, Member-at-Large (Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP)

During the 2013 - 2014 term (September 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) the Civil Litigation Section sponsored three professional development seminars.

The first CPD seminar was held on October 31, 2013. Andrew Loewen and Celia Ferguson (Fillmore Riley LLP) spoke about recent amendments to *The Insurance Act*.

The second seminar was held on January 23, 2014, at the MBA Mid-Winter Conference. The title of the seminar was Civil Trials – Procedural and Evidentiary Issues. During the morning session Michael Finlayson (D'Arcy & Deacon LLP) spoke on communications with witnesses, Bill Haight (Duboff Edwards Haight & Schachter Law Corp.) spoke on the Parol Evidence Rule, and Gord McKinnon and Sasha Paul (Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP) spoke on the basics of proving your case through documents. The Honourable Chief Justice Joyal (The Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba) provided commentary on the morning's presentations.

During the afternoon session of the Civil Litigation Section's Mid-Winter seminar, Beth Eva (Fillmore Riley LLP) spoke about the examination of adverse witnesses, Jamie Kagan (Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP) spoke about cross-examination strategies and techniques, Jason Kendall (Tapper Cuddy LLP) spoke on the use of visual aids in civil litigation, and Helga Van Iderstine (Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP) spoke about litigation privilege. The Honourable Associate Chief Justice Perlmutter (The Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba) provided commentary on the afternoon's presentations.

The third seminar was held on May 28, 2014. Bernice Bowley (Fillmore Riley LLP) spoke on developments in the law of vicarious liability relating to sexual abuse claims.

The Civil Litigation Section's Executive is currently planning CPDs for Fall 2014, and for the 2015 MBA Mid-Winter Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trevor Brown, Chair