

Constitutional/Human Rights Section Report 2010-2011

This last year the Constitutional/Human Rights Section was co-chaired by Mark Toews of Deeley Fabbri Sellen Law Corporation and Michael Conner from Manitoba Justice - Constitutional Law Branch.

The year started with a presentation from Professor Debra Parkes regarding the *Charter*, police powers and the protests at the G20 summit in Toronto. This session provided good discussion of the extent that people's ability to protest at the summit were suppressed by the police, and the arguable abuses emanating from that. The Section then helped prepare and sponsor a seminar for the Mid-Winter conference, along with the Criminal Justice Section. The session was an impaired driving primer. Michael Conner facilitated a discussion with presenters, Cynthia Devine from Manitoba Justice, Tim Killeen of Killeen Rolston Wiebe, and Judge Kelly Moar. The presentation discussed both the practical as well as the constitutional issues arising in impaired driving cases. The Section was then privileged to co-sponsor a program with the Law Society of Manitoba regarding Accommodation in the Workplace. This is a regular program that is always well presented and well attended. This year was no exception. As usual the presenters, Grant Mitchell, Garth Smorang, Donna Seale, and Shandra Czarnecki provided a good update and insight into the recent developments.

Once again, the Section continues to be actively involved in the National Constitutional/Human Rights Section and various initiatives that the National Section has advanced.

Plans for future CPD's are already underway. In particular we are looking into a program, together with the Aboriginal Law Section, involving recent developments in the division of powers within the aboriginal labour and employment context.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Conner and Mark Toews, Co-Chairs