

Corporate (In House) Counsel Section Report 2010-2011

Section Executive

Chair - Jon Sigurdson, Cargill Limited

Vice-Chair - Danielle Robinson, MPI Legal Department

Secretary - Angel Koniuck, The Great-West Life Assurance Company

CCCA Board of Directors – Dean Scaletta, MPI Legal Department

The Manitoba Section and the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association (“CCCA”) on a national level were very active this year. This Section welcomes both in-house and private practitioners with common interests. Regular members of the Section include in-house counsel employed by businesses, NGO’s, and municipal and government bodies. Associate members include lawyers from the private bar.

I have been encouraged by the continued strong support from the membership of our Section. This has provided ample motivation for the executive to plan interesting and informative events. I am also grateful for the support that our Section continues to receive from the MBA staff in keeping the Section running smoothly.

The Section held seven meetings over the past year, with a typical attendance of 25 – 40 members. Most meetings are hosted by member firms at downtown locations. The highlight of the year was, once again, our annual dinner meeting in March. We were fortunate to have lawyers from Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP to present on “Clients of a Lesser God? Solicitor-Client Privilege Issues for In-House Counsel”. Special thanks go to Dean Scaletta of MPI for organizing the dinner, for the 10th straight year. This is indeed a great tradition for our Section.

Other subjects covered in Section meetings this year included:

- Contract Drafting Issues for Corporate Counsel: Boilerplate, Common Elements, Layout
- Workplace Harassment Update - Navigating the New Regulations
- Current topics in outsourcing information technology and risk management
- Self-Preservation for Lawyers: Dealing with the Demands of Practice
- Corporate Immigration and Cross-Border Issues ... or How to Avoid the Immigration Blacklist
- Cloud Computing – Puffy, white or stormy – what kind of cloud is your company entering
- Overview of CBIA programs

In addition to our regular programs, we assisted Deloitte & Touche LLP in putting together a panel on the changing role of Canadian corporate counsel. As well as access to leading edge programs, our Section events provide an opportunity for in-house counsel to get together on an informal basis to share ideas, address common problems, and stay in touch. We always welcome topic suggestions for future programs.

This was an interesting year on a national level. The relationship between the Canadian Bar Association and the CCCA provides membership in both organizations at no additional cost beyond the CBA membership fee. The CBA at the national level were faced with some difficult decisions, trying to focus on the future of the CCCA in providing strong value to its members. Manitoba always punches above its weight class in its contributions to CBA national issues, and we are all very appreciative of the hard work of the former executive, other volunteers and staff, whose hard work and talents are responsible for the success of the CCCA to date. This is a volunteer-driven organization and we respect and are grateful for the many contributions.

Respectfully Submitted
Jon Sigurdson, Chair