

Criminal Justice Section Report 2019-2020

Section Officers:

Co-Chair (Crown) – Melissa Hazelton

Co-Chair (Defence) – James Wood (until April 6, 2020)

Co-Chair (Defence) – Wendy Martin-White (from April 6, 2020)

Members-at-Large – Peter Kingsley, Q.C., Amanda Sansregret, Bryton Moen, Kathrine Basarab

Section Activity:

On October 15, 2019 we held an Executive Planning Meeting with members of the Criminal Justice Section Executive. At the meeting, we discussed a number of ideas for CPD that we tried to put in motion. These included sessions relating to the new impaired driving provisions in the Criminal Code, and sections 276 and 278 and sexual assault prosecutions. We also tried to generate some ideas for working with Robson Hall and offering a session geared towards students. Unfortunately, as we got into planning we learned other groups had professional development sessions planned that addressed these specific areas of the law and were meant to be held around the same time we were planning. As a result, we decided to explore other options and look to perhaps doing something in the spring.

Our Section had planned a session to be done jointly with the Constitutional and Human Rights Law Section relating to section 24(1) of the *Charter*, which was originally to be held in April. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to postpone the meeting for now and new dates have not been arranged. We have otherwise put a pin in arranging any new sessions in light of the current public health situation, however, hope to meet as an Executive soon to brainstorm some new ideas and talk about delivering CPD via webinar.

Similarly, our Section has an annual CPD session geared towards incoming students – the Welcome to the Practice of Criminal Law Session. It is ordinarily held in late May or early June. Given the current public health situation, we have not commenced planning that session. Many students are having their articling start dates pushed back. The Executive will be discussing plans with respect to this session, as we do wish to continue to put it on for the incoming students. With current social-distancing protocols and gathering limits, we will have to explore whether we can effectively deliver it via a webinar or whether it should be postponed until later in the year in hopes that we may be able to facilitate a large meeting then.

Other Involvement by Co-Chairs and Executive Members:

James Wood had been scheduled to attend to the National Criminal Justice Section Meetings in Vancouver, BC at the end of April. Unfortunately, this meeting had to be cancelled.

James Wood, Wendy Martin-White and Bryton Moen participated in a conference call with all levels of Court in Manitoba on behalf of the MBA Criminal Justice Section on April

2, 2020. The purpose of this call was for the Courts to hear from various stakeholders about the ongoing plans to deal with the current COVID-19 situation.

Unfortunately, former Co-Chair James Wood made the decision to step down from his role earlier this spring. We are very happy that Wendy Martin-White has been able to step into his shoes and has assumed the role of Co-Chair.

The Section Co-Chairs – Melissa Hazelton, James Wood (when he was previously acting in this role) and now Wendy Martin-White – continue to participate in National Criminal Justice Section Executive Meetings which occur via Zoom/teleconference every other month.

Submitted by,
Melissa Hazelton, Co-Chair, MBA Criminal Justice Section