

Media & Communication Law Section Report 2011-2012

It was in many respects business as usual for our Section this year, carrying on our work to advance the public interest in access to information. As usual, a lot of our work involved activities and initiatives with the National Section which hosts monthly conference calls and reports from those conference calls were circulated to Section members.

As well, several of our members made the annual trek to the Canadian Media Lawyers Association Conference where we participated in a number of panels among the other attendees from across the country and with several guests from Great Britain and the US.

We have also continued to liaise with the Bench on issues such as camera access to Court proceedings. The topic of camera access to Court proceedings had been under review by a committee of judges. We were afforded the opportunity to share with that committee some examples of developments on this front from other jurisdictions, and we now have a “made in Manitoba” set of guidelines for camera access to courts. We appreciate that other Sections will continue to enthusiastically support our initiatives in facilitating access to the Courts that has been guaranteed by the *Charter* so that members of the public who do not enjoy the luxury of being able to attend Court can have the opportunity to have access to public Court proceedings through the media cameras. Knowing that justice must not only be done but be seen to be done, the ongoing broadly based support and encouragement to pursue this important *Charter* public access issue is appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted
Robert Sokalski, Chair