

Legal Research Section Report 2015-2016

This year, the Legal Research Section organized five events. In October, we held a blended webcast/in-person session on the subject of “Legal Research Ethics”. The speakers were Kristin Dangerfield (Law Society of Manitoba), Shaunna Mireau (Field Law) and Darla Rettie (Pitblado LLP). The next event was our annual holiday party, held in early December at Pitblado LLP. Our speaker this year was The Hon. Madam Justice Janice leMaistre (Manitoba Court of Appeal). As part of the Mid-Winter in January, the Legal Research Section organized a session entitled, “The Unknown Unknowns”. The presenters were Robert Ambrogio from Massachusetts and representatives of The Great-West Life Assurance Company’s Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs Division, Gary Senft and Dorothy MacIntyre. In February, we held a lunch hour webcast with Ivan Mokanov (Lexum) introducing the new online research tool, [Lexbox](#). In late March, we held a joint session with the Constitutional and Human Rights Section on the subject of “Standards of Review and Jurisdiction in Human Rights Cases”, presented by The Hon. Madam Justice Diana Cameron (Manitoba Court of Appeal). Our final event of the year will be our annual wind-up, to be held on June 2nd at Darla Rettie’s home.

In addition to these continuing professional development sessions, the Section’s Co-Chairs and Section members Beverley Padeanu (Manitoba Court of Appeal) and Catherine Skinner (Workers Compensation Board) worked with the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba to offer an innovative pilot project, where third year law students attended a legal research and writing workshop and earned advance credit for the CPLED legal research and writing module. We are happy to report that all of the students who completed the program demonstrated competency and earned their CPLED credit. The program was so successful that we are exploring the possibility of offering it as part of an Advanced Legal Research course at Robson Hall in 2016-2017.

As well, the Section coordinated an online survey of its members and the members of the Civil Litigation Section regarding the format, content and pricing of Carswell’s *Annotated Queen’s Bench Rules* publication.

As in past years, the Section also prepared 10 editions of its monthly newsletter, *The Law & Library Monthly*, for distribution to its members via e-mail. Thank you to all of our faithful contributors over the past year: Tony Cellitti (Phillips Aiello), the family law department of D’Arcy & Deacon LLP (Josh Bokhaut, Terrance DeLaronde, Tanya Keller, Corrine Lavallee, Lisa Manaigre and Anna Solmundson), David Davis (Davis Immigration Law Office), Andrea Doyle (Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP), Heather Fast (The Great-West Life Assurance Company), Andrew Robertson (Manitoba Public Insurance), Celia Valel (Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP) and James Wood (Kavanagh Wood Law Corporation).

This year’s Section executive was composed of the following members:

Co-chairs:	Melanie Bueckert (Manitoba Court of Appeal)
	Darla Rettie (Pitblado LLP)
Vice-chair:	Heather Fast (The Great-West Life Assurance Company)
Members-at-large:	Andrew Robertson (Manitoba Public Insurance)
	Elizabeth McCandless (Manitoba Law Reform Commission)

Submitted by,
Melanie Bueckert, Co-Chair, MBA Legal Research Section