

## Legal Research Section Report 2016-2017

This year, the Legal Research Section organized nine events. In October, we held an in-person webcast session on the subject of “Researching American Law”. Our speaker was Kim Clarke (Bennett Jones/University of Calgary). In November, we held a joint session on sentencing research with the Criminal Justice Section. The speakers were Prof. David Ireland (University of Manitoba – Faculty of Law) and Jennifer Mann (Manitoba Justice – Prosecution Services).

The next event was our annual holiday party, which this year was held at Epic Escape. As part of the Mid-Winter in January, the Legal Research Section organized a session entitled, “The Future of Legal Research in Manitoba”. The presenters were Xavier Beauchamp-Tremblay (CanLII), Dean Jonathan Black-Branch (University of Manitoba – Faculty of Law), Donald Douglas (Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP), Melanie Hodges Neufeld (Law Society of Saskatchewan), Karen Sawatzky (Law Society of Manitoba – Great Library) and Donna Sikorsky (University of Manitoba – E.K. Williams Law Library).

In February, we held a session for students at Robson Hall showcasing legal research career options in Manitoba. Section members tapped to share their experiences were Melanie Bueckert (Manitoba Court of Appeal), Heather Fast (The Great-West Life Assurance Company), Elizabeth McCandless (Manitoba Law Reform Commission), Darla Rettie (Pitblado LLP) and Monique St. Germain (Canadian Centre for Child Protection). In March, we held a lunch hour webcast with Colin Lachance (Compass.law) on the subject of “Platforms, Apps and Omnibots: Alternate Views on the Future of Legal Research”. Later that same month, we partnered with the Law Society of Manitoba to offer a session on “Electronic Legal Research for Luddites”. Our speakers were Melanie Bueckert (Manitoba Court of Appeal), Tana Christianson (Law Society of Manitoba), Darla Rettie (Pitblado LLP), Andrew Robertson (Manitoba Public Insurance) and Karen Sawatzky (Law Society of Manitoba – Great Library).

In April, we held our inaugural board game night, as a fun and informal networking event for our members. Our final event of the year will be our annual wind-up, to be held in June at Darla Rettie’s home. Our speaker will be the Hon. Madam Justice Candace Grammond, who will address the topic of “A New Judge’s Perspective on Legal Research”.

In addition to these continuing professional development sessions, the Section’s co-chairs worked with the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba to offer the first law school course to include a CPLED component. Students who enrolled in Advanced Legal Research had the opportunity to also earn their CPLED credit for the Legal Research and Writing Module. As well, the Section co-chairs held meetings with the Law Society of Manitoba regarding the future of the Great Library.

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: **David Davis** (Davis Immigration Law Office), **Andrea Doyle** (Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP), **Heather Fast** (The Great-West

Life Assurance Company), **Paul Kathler** (D'Arcy & Deacon LLP), **Tanya Keller** (Sternat Manaigre Law Corporation), **Lisa Manaigre** (Sternat Manaigre Law Corporation), **Michael Merner** (D'Arcy & Deacon LLP), **Andrew Robertson** (Manitoba Public Insurance), **Karen Sawatzky** (Law Society of Manitoba – Great Library), **Celia Valel** (MLT Aikins 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