

Legal Research Section Report 2017-2018

This year, the Legal Research Section organized 12 events. In September, we collaborated with the Law Society of Manitoba's CPLED program to offer a legal research boot camp for incoming articling students. Section members Melanie Bueckert (Manitoba Court of Appeal), Beverley Mulholland (Manitoba Court of Appeal), Darla Rettie (Pitblado LLP) and Andrew Robertson (Manitoba Public Insurance) presented. In November, we offered two webcasts focusing on new legal research products. The first showcased Blue J Legal's new [Foresight](#) products, while the second walked through the [Rangefinder](#) product now available to all Law Society members through the Great Library. We ended off 2017 with our annual holiday party, which was held at Codebreakers escape rooms.

This year our section was proud to organize two sessions at the Mid-Winter. The first related to crowdsourced legal research and was presented by Peter Dostal, a senior Crown attorney from Nova Scotia who has developed the [Criminal Law Notebook](#). The second was a presentation on "Technology Skills Every Lawyer Should Master" by Sarah Glassmeyer from the American Bar Association Center for Innovation.

In February, we held an on-site session at the Great Library, highlighting all of the fabulous resources available there. In early March, we headed down to Robson Hall to host a forum on the value of an LL.M. degree. The panellists at the session were Oluwaseyi Adebayo (LL.M. Student), Melanie Bueckert, Andrea Campbell (LL.M. Student), Prof. Amar Khoday (Robson Hall), Andrew MacSkimming (A.H. MacSkimming Law Office). At the end of March, we held a session on law reform and consultation, where the speakers were Kristal Bayes (Manitoba Law Reform Commission), Jennifer Bird (Workers Compensation Board), Heather Fast (LL.M. Student) and Elizabeth McCandless (Manitoba Law Reform Commission).

In April, we were thrilled to feature Justice Jennifer Pfuetzner from the Manitoba Court of Appeal and Justice Alan Diner from the Federal Court at an evening presentation about judicial perspectives on research and advocacy. In May, we held our second annual 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 Master Karen Clearwater, who will address the topic of "A Master's Perspective on Legal Research".

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: **Kristal Bayes** (Manitoba Law Reform Commission), **David Davis** (Davis Immigration Law Office), **Heather Fast** (LL.M. Student), **Paul Grower** (Fillmore Riley LLP), **Tanya Keller** (Sternat ManaiGRE Law Corporation), **Kristin Kersey** (Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP), **Corrine Lavallee** (Sternat ManaiGRE Law Corporation), **Andrew Robertson** (Manitoba Public Insurance), **Karen Sawatzky** (Law Society of Manitoba – Great Library), **Megan Spencer** (Sternat ManaiGRE Law Corporation) 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)
	Heather Fast (LL.M. Student)
Vice-chair:	Elizabeth McCandless (Manitoba Law Reform Commission)
Members-at-large:	Jennifer Bird (Workers Compensation Board)
	Andrew Robertson (Manitoba Public Insurance)
Student Member:	Kamilah Ahamed (Robson Hall)
Past Chair:	Darla Rettie (Pitblado LLP)

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