

## **Young Lawyers' Section Report 2013-14**

The Young Lawyers Section of the Manitoba Bar Association kicked off its 2013-2014 year with its annual Wine and Cheese reception in September 2013. For several years, the Wine and Cheese reception has been a well-attended event, where law students from the University of Manitoba, and young lawyers of various ages network in a relaxed setting. As part of its charitable goals, the Young Lawyers Section invited representatives from the United Way to give a presentation during the reception about the importance of young professionals giving back to the community. The Young Lawyers Section was also active in helping to promote an event of the United Way's GenNext Division in January 2014, which was focused around encouraging young legal professionals to participate in the United Way's charitable efforts.

Also in January 2014, the Young Lawyers Section hosted a panel discussion at the Manitoba Bar Association's Annual Mid-Winter Conference. The panel discussion was entitled "Pre-Trial Conferences: A View from the Civil Litigation and Family Bench and Bar". The Young Lawyers Section had the pleasure of having both Associate Chief Justices of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench (General and Family Divisions) on its panel.

In March 2014, the Young Lawyers Section hosted another continuing legal education seminar at the Law Society, entitled "Navigating your way through Wills and Estate Administration Issues".

In June 2014, the Young Lawyers Section held two continuing legal education seminars. The first, co-hosted with the Family Law Section on June 4, was entitled "Welcome to Family Law-What They Didn't Teach You in Law School". The second session on June 30 was the Young Lawyers Section's annual Small Claims Primer. The Small Claims Primer is always a great event for new articling students to learn about the small claims process, and is also a great refresher course for those young lawyers who have been practicing for a few years.

Finally, 2013-2014 Chair Jason Gisser, attended the CBA meeting of Young Lawyers Chairs in Ottawa in October 2013. During this conference, Jason presented on the 2013 activities of the MBA Young Lawyers, and was able to network with other Chairs while learning about programming ideas that could be introduced in Manitoba.

### **Pro Bono Initiatives**

In addition to its charitable efforts with the United Way of Winnipeg, the Young Lawyers Section has worked with the Winnipeg Legal Help Centre. The Young Lawyers Section has invited representatives of the Legal Help Centre to speak to attendees before its sessions, in order to encourage them to donate a few hours of legal assistance to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jason Gisser, Chair