

## Young Lawyers' Section Report 2014-2015

The Young Lawyers' Section has had an eventful 2014-2015 year. It began with its annual Wine and Cheese reception on October 23, 2014. The Wine and Cheese reception has been a well-attended event for many years, where law students from the University of Manitoba and young lawyers of various ages network in a relaxed setting. This year the Section changed the venue of the event to be hosted by Taylor McCaffrey LLP and it was another great success! Involving the law students has proven to be beneficial to not only ensure the success of the event but it is a good opportunity to introduce the students early on to the Manitoba Bar Association programs and what it has to offer them.

In late October, Tatiyana Bubnowicz (Chair) attended the CBA meeting of Young Lawyers CBA Fall Directorate meeting in Toronto, Ontario. During this conference Tatiyana presented the 2014 activities of the MBA Young Lawyers and the Section's plans for 2015. The YL-CBA Directorate and representatives from each YL section in Canada were canvassed for input into the National Magazine, which was undergoing changes, and discussed other YL-CBA initiatives. Key topics of discussion were also the CBA's Legal Futures Initiative and the Re-Think project.

In January 2015, the Young Lawyers Section increased its participation in the Manitoba Bar Association's Annual Mid-Winter Conference by hosting two professional development sessions. The first session entitled "The Ins and Outs of Court of Queen's Bench Proceedings" involved a panel of experienced litigation practitioners and judiciary from the Court of Queen's Bench who provided practice tips and pointers regarding motions, applications and trials to increase chances of success in the Court of Queen's Bench. The second session entitled "Advising Small Business Clients Starting a Business" involved representatives from the legal and business community, who explored the topic of advising small business clients when starting a business from both a tax and corporate law perspective.

On June 10, 2015, the Young Lawyers' Section held an event at Tapper Cuddy LLP focused on networking, combined with professional development entitled "Practicing Law – A Social Evening of Strategies and Insights from Past & Present Young Lawyers". The current Young Lawyers executive members and a few previous Young Lawyer executive members offered an informal question and answer session in a relaxed social setting, sharing their individual experiences of articling and practicing in different law firms, tips on how to build a successful practice and achieve work/life balance and answered questions articling students and young lawyers might not have felt comfortable asking a senior lawyer or partner.

On June 24, 2015, the Young Lawyers' Section held its annual "Small Claims Primer". Two experienced practitioners and a Small Claims hearing officer offered tips and pointers and highlighted the recent amendments to the *Court of Queen's Bench Small Claim Practices Act* and the rules. The session was particularly important this year due to the recent amendments to the small claims process.

Submitted by,  
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