

# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT RAPPORT ANNUEL



THE MANITOBA BAR ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU DU MANITOBA

A Branch of the Canadian Bar Association

Une division de l'Association du Barreau canadien

## Executive Committee 2019-2020

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**President** ..... Cynthia Lau  
**Vice-President** ..... Carli Owens  
**Secretary/Treasurer** ..... Peter Kingsley, Q.C.  
**Advocacy and Public Relations** ..... Ian Scarth

**Membership** ..... Tanya Keller  
**Past President** ..... Mark Toews  
**CBA Board Representative** ..... Brad Regehr  
**Executive Director** ..... Stacy Nagle

## Elected Council 2019-2020

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### WINNIPEG JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Kevin Antonyshyn  
Kalyn Bomback  
Natasha Brown  
Tony Cellitti (*until August 2019*)  
Silvia de Sousa  
Alexandra Dueck-Dunsford  
Jason Gisser  
Tyler Grant  
Aron Grusko  
Joel Lebois  
Tanya Keller \*  
Peter Kingsley, Q.C. \*  
Cynthia Lau \*  
Candray Mehkary  
Maria Mitousis  
Bryton Moen  
Ian Scarth \*  
Jessica Schofield  
Dr. Virginia Torrie  
Mark Toews \*  
James Wood (*until April 2020*)

### CENTRAL/EASTERN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carli Owens \*  
Kassy Baker  
Eugene Warwaruk (*until August 2020*)

### WESTERN/DAUPHIN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Joshua Dyck  
Rhea Majewski

### NORTHERN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Robert Pellizzaro

### MLSA Representative

Braeden Cornick

### CPLED Student Representative

Jennifer Sokal

### STAFF

*Executive Director* – Stacy Nagle

*Member Service Administrator* – Melissa Tannahill

*Member Service Coordinator* – Chelsey Tait

*Law Student* – Jana Vandale

\* *Designated voting member*

# Special Thanks to MBA Volunteers

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Volunteers are the heart of our Branch. Without them, we would not be able to do all that we do. Special thanks to all of our volunteers who go above and beyond, making the Manitoba Bar Association the strongest that it can be. Thank you for generously sharing your time, energy and expertise.

## 2019 Isaac Pitblado Lectures

Ian Scarth, *Organizing Committee Member*

## 2020 Law Day Organizing Committee

Amber Lamboo, *Co-Chair*

Tatiana Bubnowicz, *Co-Chair*

Sharyne Hamm

## 2020 Mid-Winter Conference Committee

Tyler Grant, *Co-Chair*

Jennifer Litchfield, *Co-Chair*

Adriel Agpalza

Danielle Barchyn

Katherine Bayer

Krista Clendenning

Anthony Foderaro

Jason Gisser

Carli Owens

Meghan Ross

Abram Silver

David Silver

Heather Wadsworth

## 2020 Royal MTC/MBA Production *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

David Dick .....Schmendiman

Tashia Dreger .....Susanne

Reid Girard.....A Visitor

Benji Greenberg.....Sagot

Daniel Gunn.....Albert Einstein

Ashley Korsunsky .....A Female Admirer

James McLandress, Q.C. ....Gaston

Jaime Rosin.....Germaine

Neil Steen .....Pablo Picasso

Geoffrey Toews.....Freddy

Maria Versace.....The Countess

## 2020 Royal MTC/MBA Joint Production Lawyers Play Committee

Melissa Hazelton, *Chair*

Jamie Jurczak

John Harvie

Shawn Hughes

Jessica Isaak

Stacy Nagle

Jeff Palamar

Nalini Reddy

Ian Scarth

Stéphanie Tétreault

## 2020 Will Week Committee Representatives

Robert Fabbri

Leilani Kagan

## CBA Well-Being Committee Members

Colleen McDuff

Maria Mitousis

## Court of Queen's Bench & Bar Liaison Committee

The Hon. Justice Michael Thomson, *Chairperson*

## Federal Judicial Advisory Committee for Manitoba

Priscilla Sternat-McIvor

## Judicial Inquiry Board

Ken Mandzuik

## Law Society of Manitoba President's Special Committee on Lawyer Wellness

Maria Mitousis

## Lawyers Financial

Ken Mandzuik (*Director, until December 2019*)

Karen Wittman (*Director, effective December 2019*)

## Legal Aid Advisory Committee Representatives

Tony Cellitti (*until August 2019*)

James Wood (*effective August 2019 until April 2020*)

Wendy Martin White (*effective April 2020*)

John Ramsay

Stacy Nagle

## Legal Help Centre MBA Board Representative

Nick Slonosky

## Legislation & Law Reform Committee

Melanie Bueckert, *Chair*

Steve Falkingham

Kristal Bayes-McDonald

Ken Mandzuik

Ian Scarth

## Manitoba Law Foundation MBA Board Representative

Kevin Antonyshyn

## Manitoba Law School Foundation Board

Wayne Onchulenko

## Provincial Court Bench & Bar Liaison Committee

The Honourable Judge Tim Killeen, *Chairperson*

## 2020 MBA Distinguished Service Award Recipient:

Chrys Pappas, Q.C.



## 2020 Pro Bono Award Recipient:

Dayna Steinfeld, Fillmore Riley LLP



## 2019 MBA Access to Justice Award:

Kathy Bueti



## 2019 Isabel Ross (MacLean) Hunt Award:

Kristin Dangerfield

## 2019 Headnotes & Footnotes Award:

Tradition Law LLP



## 2019 Section Activity Award:

Family Law Section, Robynne Kazina, Chair



## 2019 President's Award:

Melanie Bueckert



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been an honour to serve as the President of the Manitoba Bar Association during the 2019-2020 year.

As I sit in front of my laptop, I am struggling to fairly and adequately capture in a few paragraphs, a tumultuous year. I have come to the inevitable conclusion that it is impossible to do so. The pandemic has swept across our province, and it has continued on for much longer than many of us had anticipated. We have seen our loved ones and strangers impacted by death, suffering, loss of employment and loneliness. It has been devastating. Yet, with the vaccines on the horizon, there is a glimmer of hope that the months and months of silence and reflection will instill a renewed sense of purpose towards the administration of justice and our own personal resolutions.

Reflecting on the year, it can be divided into two equal parts: pre-pandemic September to March, and post-pandemic April to August. As an Association, we were extremely busy with the additional tasks in the latter part of the year – determining the most nimble and effective way to adjust to the needs of our members.

In the Fall, the Supreme Court of Canada visited our province during a historic series of events that elevated interest in the legal system and the administration of justice. During the visit, the MBA was present at several events to support community outreach, engage the legal community, and demonstrate its commitment to truth and reconciliation (being a signatory to the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord). The MBA also met with the Chief Justice of Canada and the Chief Justices and Chief Judge of Manitoba to discuss issues pertaining to access to justice in rural communities and provide updates on engaging law students and young lawyers.

Throughout the year, my mandate as President focused on students and young lawyers. The MBA recognizes that there are stressors arising from a fluctuating economy, technological advances, and mental and physical wellness that may create particular uncertainty for students. In that regard, the MBA continued to organize mentorship events for students, exam cram, and encourage Section leaders to hold professional development sessions at the Faculty of Law. With the impressive efforts of the MLSA representative, Braeden Cornick, and the CPLED representative, Jennifer Sokal, we were able to work together to better understand the needs of students and look for solutions.

We continued to provide distinct and relevant professional development for our members, consistently viewed as one of the most important benefits of membership. The annual Mid-Winter Conference saw strong attendance numbers, much to the credit of the organizing committee, staff, Sections, moderators, and speakers. During the year, our Sections delivered ongoing professional development on a wide range of topics. As the provincial restrictions on gatherings were implemented, the MBA was called upon to use technology exclusively to continue to deliver professional development and host meetings for its members. We adapted quickly to ensure that despite the social isolation, our members would still have a forum to learn and share ideas.

We also strove to provide ongoing advocacy on behalf of the legal community and our justice system. We remain committed to improving access to justice, with ongoing annual funding for students seeking articles in rural communities through the forgivable loan program. The MBA participated in the Family Law Collaboration Table to contribute towards the modernization of the family law system in Manitoba. Given the limitations arising from serving vulnerable clients during the pandemic, on behalf of its members, the MBA worked with the Law Society of Manitoba, the Judiciary and the Province of Manitoba to amend legislative requirements requiring in-person commissioning and witnessing of Last Wills and Testaments, Powers of Attorneys, and other

documents. These concerns were addressed by the passing of Order in Council 131/2020 under *The Emergency Measures Act* which would temporarily allow audio-video communications. This was a significant benefit to many Manitobans and we are proud to have been part of this process! Since the Queen's Counsel appointments were reinstated in 2018 following our submissions before the Legislature, there have been annual appointments; in May 2020, another ten of our esteemed colleagues were appointed. A true testament to the quality of legal services of our members, and giving them much deserved recognition.

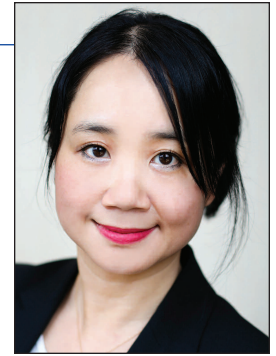
Another critical mandate of the MBA is to cultivate an inclusive and engaged professional community. Across the board, there was strong attendance at networking events, various Section activities, and mentorship activities. As President, I had the privilege of representing the MBA at numerous events. This included: co-hosting the Bench & Bar Reception along with my husband George and The Honourable Chief Judge Margaret Wiebe, serving on judicial nominating committees, attending the Western Bar meeting in Elkhorn, providing congratulatory comments at judicial swearing-in ceremonies, and welcoming students on their first day of Law School and CPLED. Many of us began working from home in the Spring, so there was an incremental demand for the MBA to assist with communications between the Bench and the Bar on operations and developments in the law. I joined the Western President's Summit (BC, AB, SK, NT, YK, MB) to share actions each Branch has taken to provide member value during this time and to address specific advocacy concerns. The purpose is to collaborate and manage resources successfully as a team.

I also had the opportunity to represent the MBA throughout Canada. I visited and provided greetings at the Saskatchewan and Alberta Branches. I also attended the CBA Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, as well as the Leadership Forums, attended by the CBA Board and all Branch Presidents. The Leadership Forum included the annual dinner at the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as the annual President's Dinner where long-standing local volunteer Dean Scaletta received the prestigious Louis St. Laurent Award of Excellence for his lifetime of service. These events were a reminder that the MBA is responsible for contributing to the national dialogue and promoting resolutions that may have an impact world-wide.

Membership remained strong at approximately 1,600 members and this can be attributed to the concerted efforts to serve the profession through advocacy, calling for effective law reform, and delivering quality professional development and information to members. We do not take for granted the membership we have, and we are regularly evaluating ways to provide value and innovate.

My sincerest thanks to the Executive (Mark Toews, Carli Owens, Peter Kingsley, Q.C., Ian Scarth, Tanya Keller), CBA Board representative Brad Regehr, and all the dedicated Section leaders, speakers, and volunteers who have committed their time and energy to serving the profession. We are fortunate to have dedicated MBA staff (Executive Director Stacy Nagle, Melissa Tannahill, Chelsey Tait) who have truly gone above and beyond to keep the MBA operating amidst a most challenging environment.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to serve as President. It has been the honour of a lifetime, and I will cherish the many memories and friendships while travelling this journey. Stay safe, and be well.



Cynthia Lau

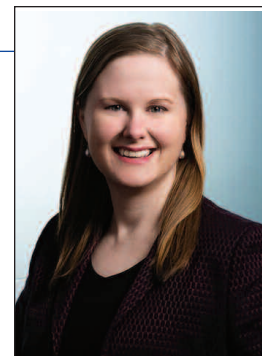
## VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was a pleasure to serve as Vice President of the Manitoba Bar Association. In this role, I was responsible for the oversight of Section activity. Sections are a vital component of our association and provide great opportunities for professional development and networking. Over 3,800 members participated in 76 Section meetings held throughout the year. I would like to sincerely thank all of our Section Chairs, Co-Chairs, Executives, and volunteers for their contributions in making 2019-2020 another year of quality Section activity for the Membership.

I also sat on the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference Organizing Committee. Congratulations to Co-Chairs, Tyler Grant and

Jennifer Litchfield, and Team for organizing a successful conference. This continues to be a premiere CPD event with excellent attendance, which is accredited to the many hours put in by our volunteers and staff year after year.

I thank the MBA staff and fellow Executive Committee members for the support and encouragement I received during the year.



*Carli Owens*

## MEMBERSHIP/MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

The 2019-2020 year was the first of the two terms that I will hold the position of Director of Membership/Membership Services. It was a great year with record setting membership totals. Our over 1,600 members continue to be well served by a wonderful staff and a very supportive Executive Committee and Council. While I would like to take credit for an increase in membership, I must say that our success on this front is due to the hard work and commitment of our Executive Director, Stacy Nagle.

In 2019-2020 we saw not only Robson Hall law students as a part of our membership, but staff and graduate students as well. We are very appreciative of the strong relationship we have with Robson Hall. In recognizing this, we began the 2019 school year with a champagne reception to introduce the first-year students to the MBA and during the school year we provided support through the MBA mentorship program and offered encouragement and nourishment at the Exam Cram events.

In the fall of 2019, I, along with the assistance of the entire Executive and MBA staff, reached out to lapsed members not only to encourage them to renew, but to determine how we can better address their needs or improve upon the services that the MBA offers. In addition, welcome letters were sent out to all new members that outlined the benefits of membership.

Our members continue to benefit from the many services and benefits that the MBA provides. This includes the Continuing Professional Development programs, primarily provided by our Sections, and the Mid-Winter Conference. The MBA also plays an important advocacy role in providing information to the Manitoba Government on numerous issues as it undertakes the reform of many departments that affect the practice of law and our membership.

As Director of Membership, I attended various meetings and functions, including the Robson Hall champagne reception, mentorship reception, CPLED student reception, MBA Mid-Winter Conference, and the Family Law Modernization Collaboration Roundtable meetings for stakeholders. I thank the MBA staff and fellow Executive Committee members for the support and encouragement I received during the year. I look forward to completing my term as Director of Membership in August 2021 and continuing to serve the membership in the role of Vice-President.



*Tanya Keller*

# ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Having completed my second year as the Director of Advocacy and Public Relations for the Manitoba Bar Association (MBA), the following is my annual report for the period September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020. From the outset, I wish to extend my appreciation to Cynthia Lau who during her term as President has demonstrated great leadership adapting to the demands and challenges raised by the onset of the global pandemic. As I transition to Vice-President, I am fortunate to have learned from Cynthia and other past-presidents and hope to model my future contributions to the MBA in their footsteps. It has been an honour to sit on the MBA Executive and I wish to extend my thanks to the MBA Council for providing me with the opportunity to assume the role of Vice-President.

In addition to attending council meetings, executive meetings, mentorship events, and judicial swearing-in ceremonies, as the Director of Advocacy and Public Relations I have been engaged in the following initiatives.

**Access to Justice Initiatives:** As a member of both the Access to Justice Steering Committee and Stakeholders Committee, the MBA continued to expand on educational components for Indigenous legal issues in accordance with the MBA's commitment to the City of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord and the calls to action set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The MBA is continually looking to support access to justice initiatives as primary goal of the association. In addition, the MBA actively took steps to ensure that legislation to allow the remote execution of document in Manitoba be passed in reaction to social distancing restriction imposed by the Pandemic.

**Lawyers' Play:** Unfortunately, the reality of the pandemic resulted in the 2020 Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (MTC)/MBA Lawyer's Play, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, being cancelled. This was the first time that the annual Lawyer's Play could not be held since its inception. Although the Lawyers' Play was not held in 2020, the MBA is proud that this collaborative effort has raised more than \$1 million dollars for the programs and productions of the Royal MTC.

**Web-Site:** Our web-site continues to provide valuable resources to our members, the legal community, and the public. The web-site statistics show a steady usage, with an observed growth during the months leading to the January Mid-Winter Conference.

**Headnotes & Footnotes:** As part of the editorial board, I wish to acknowledge the amount of time it takes for the writers of

*Headnotes & Footnotes* to research and regularly contribute to articles. This is one of the valuable benefits of a MBA membership and is a useful tool to stay up to date on Section meetings, caselaw updates and developments in the legal community. After writing 150 *What's Happening* articles in 10 editions of *Headnotes & Footnotes* for 15 years, Dean Scaletta resigned from writing these articles as of his last article published in the August/September 2020 edition. Thank you Dean for your contribution to the newsletter. As of January 2020, MLT Aikins LLP took over writing Civil Decisions in *Headnotes & Footnotes* from Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP who had been writing these decisions since October 2016. Thanks also to Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP.

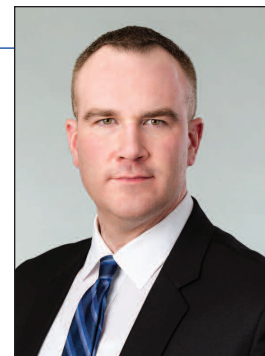
**Legislation and Law Reform:** The MBA's Legislation and Law Reform Committee continues to be actively involved in reviewing provincial legislation and ensuring that the MBA and specific Sections are alerted to relevant upcoming and new legislation.

**MBA Awards:** It was a pleasure to participate in the selection process and present the MBA awards during the Awards Luncheon at the Mid-Winter Conference. It is always difficult to decide on the deserving winner of an award when considering the amount of lawyers who give back to the community. Congratulations to all the winners.

**Legal Directory & Day Planner:** This publication was another huge success this year. The Directory continues to be an invaluable resource for the legal community.

**Media Relations:** One of the key roles the MBA plays is responding to criticism of our members, whether lawyers or the judiciary, in the media. The MBA has been quick to respond when warranted. Equally important is the role the MBA plays in highlighting the accomplishments of our members in the media.

Lastly, the MBA does not function without the support of our staff. A special thanks to Stacy Nagle for her dedication and leadership and to both Chelsey Tait and Melissa Tannahill for their professional efforts which continued to be above and beyond. To the Executive team: Mark, Carli, Peter and Tanya – the past year has been a pleasure and I thank you for all of your guidance and support over the past year.



Ian Scarth

## PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has truly been an honour to serve as Past President of the MBA during the course of this last year. This was the final chapter of a five year experience, serving on the MBA Executive. I will always treasure the experiences that I had, the amazing people I have interacted with throughout the country, and the opportunities to advance the interests of the legal community here in Manitoba.

As I reflect upon the last year, it can be divided into two very different phases. The first half of the year I enjoyed participating in a number of projects that the MBA was involved in. My personal highlight, which was shared by many, was hosting the Supreme Court of Canada in fall of 2019. The banquet and interactions feel like a lifetime ago, in light of more recent developments. As we all know, everything changed in March, when our Province locked down due to COVID-19. This had the effect of changing all pre-conceived plans that I had hoped to be engaged in during my last few months with the Executive.

Despite the challenges that emerged due to COVID-19, I would

like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and respect for my fellow Executive members and the staff at the MBA. There was no sense of despair. Rather, there was an attitude of determination and deep resolve to simply get on with our duties to service the profession as best as one can under most challenging circumstances. I could not have been prouder to be associated with this group.

I am truly grateful for the unforgettable experiences the MBA has given me, and the friendships that were made. I would like to thank everyone, especially my fellow Executive members that I had the privilege of working with during the last five years. A special thanks to Stacy Nagle and the entire MBA staff for the support that they provided to me during this time. I will continue to enthusiastically support the MBA from the sidelines.



*Mark Toews*

## CBA BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

In 2019-2020, the CBA Board of Directors met eight times over the course of the year. The first meeting took place on September 12, 2019 via Zoom. The Passing of the Chain of Office Ceremony for new CBA President had already taken place in early August in Ottawa. Vivene Salmon from Toronto, Ontario served as CBA President and I served as CBA Vice-President in addition to being the CBA Board member from Manitoba. As Vice-President, I also chaired the CBA Governance and Equality Committee.

This was the third year under the "new model" Board of Directors which consists of only 15 people – one from each province and territory, the CBA President and the CBA Chief Executive Officer. The idea of the new model was to facilitate more in-depth and effective discussions while allowing for perspectives from the various regions across the country. Approximately half of the Board was new having been elected in the spring of 2019 for a two-year term.

The year was busy for the Board on many matters and items. These included:

- discussion of and finalization of CBA key performance indicators for the 2019-2020 year;
- discussion and approval of the 2020-2021 budget, Enterprise Risk Management Report and budget for CBA Communications Strategy;
- addressing two vacancies on the CBA board which resulted from resignations;
- received reports from staff directors on updates within their departments;
- issuing a RFP and selecting new legal counsel for the CBA;
- regular updates on membership issues and consideration and approval of a membership strategy for the CBA, noting that the CBA had a small increase in memberships for the 2019-2020 year;

- preparing for and participating in Leadership Forum meetings;
- approving further marketing support from CBIA with regard to their new Pension Program and had a presentation from CBIA Board Chair Moe Chochla;
- approved an Evaluation Framework for the governance review being conducted by the Governance Review Task Force;
- reviewing and discussing regular reports from each of the four Board committees (Governance and Equality, Policy, Finance and Audit). In this regard:

- Governance and Equality worked on making appointments to the Governance Review Task Force to conduct the three-year governance review of the new CBA governance model, ongoing review and approval of CBA policies, issues around CBA positions on immigration consultants, initiating and supervising the election of the position of Vice-President and new board members, reviewing AGM resolutions and made recommendations for committee and subcommittee appointments for 2020-2021;
- Policy focused on numerous submissions to the federal government and discussed and recommended future advocacy priorities;
- Finance reviewed the President's honorarium, the Shared Services budget, the 2020-2021 budget, the possibility of members not needing to pay GST, investment returns, the issuance of an RFP for investment advisors, updated the semi-annual Risk



*Brad Regehr*

# CBA BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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Management Framework and developing a membership renewal strategy including a group membership retention strategy;

- Audit oversaw the 2018-2019 audit completion;

- ongoing discussion with regard to the liaison roles each Board member played with regard to the Branch they were part of;
- there were discussions on the CBA's involvement in international events with a decision that the CBA should continue to be involved with the American Bar Association, G7 and International Bar Association;
- receiving updates on the implementation of the final report of the CBA Truth and Reconciliation Task Force, including the establishment of a CBA Indigenous Advisory Group, launch of a website dedicated to the CBA work on the final report, launch of The Path which is a 4.5-hour module based CPD on Truth and Reconciliation objectives and the retention of a consultant to investigate barriers to indigenous lawyers being part of the CBA;
- approving the entering into of a MOU with the Federation of Law Societies to undertake a joint well-being study.

This report would not be complete without some reporting on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, as a result of the pandemic, we were faced with a very quick need to move into a “shut down” mode across the country. For the CBA this involved closing our Ottawa office and sending staff home to work. It meant conducting all board, committee, executive and other meetings by way of Zoom. It also meant conducting the Board orientation in August 2020 by way of Zoom.

It meant cancelling our suite of spring conferences, resulting in a revenue loss to the CBA and a loss of CPD opportunities for members. I am happy to report that the Immigration Section was able to quickly pivot and offer their conference on-line over a series of days. In addition, plans were quickly made to change our Fall 2020 conferences to online format. CBA National and Branch staff also quickly developed new online programming and dusted off older but very relevant CPD programming for members. As the CBA had already embraced the use of Zoom technology, using online videoconferencing for meetings and CPD came naturally.

In April 2020, President Salmon established the CBA's COVID-19 Task Force to look at impacts on the federal justice system with an aim to look at what worked and what improvements could be made. In addition to numerous CBA Sections participating, there was also participation from numerous stakeholders including the

Supreme Court of Canada, Federal Court of Appeal, Federal Court of Canada, Tax Court of Canada, Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada, Justice Canada, Council of Canadian Law Deans and the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. A report authored by Professor Karen Eltis will be tabled at the CBA Annual General Meeting in February 2021.

Because of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, the CBA immediately began analyzing potential impacts on CBA revenues. A decision had already been made in September 2019 that the CBA would have a balanced budget for the 2020-2021 year. After extensive discussion and analysis, a decision was made to assume that the CBA would incur a 20% drop in revenues (based on an estimated 20% drop in memberships and related CPD revenues). As such, a balanced budget was passed assuming the 20% drop. It was also agreed that a review would be done of the 2020-2021 budget after the fall renewal season was completed to determine if the 20% drop would materialize and what other impacts the pandemic would have had on CBA revenues.

In addition to all the challenges posed by the pandemic, on May 29, 2020, CBA CEO Cheryl Farrow tendered her resignation. This necessitated striking a CEO Search Committee and looking for an Interim CEO while the search was underway for a permanent CEO. Steve Pengelly, former Executive Director of the Ontario Bar Association agreed to be Interim CEO and started in the position in mid-July. The Search Committee was chaired by CBA Board member Steeves Bujold and had four other CBA Board members including President Vivene Salmon and myself. The aim of the Search Committee is to have a candidate announced at or prior to the CBA February 2021 AGM.

As part of my liaison role to the MBA, I also attended both MBA Executive meetings and MBA Council meetings, with meetings starting in March 2020 and onward being conducted via Zoom.

On September 1, 2020, I will assume the presidency of the CBA. I will be the first indigenous person to hold the office in the CBA's history. It is an honour for me to be able to undertake this office. I am very much looking forward to my presidential year despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. In February 2020, Stephen Rotstein from Toronto, Ontario was elected as Vice President-Elect and will assume the office of CBA Vice-President on September 1, 2020.

This will be my eighth and last contribution to the MBA Annual Report. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as the representative from Manitoba on the CBA Board for the last year and to have had the opportunity to be a member of the MBA Executive for so many years.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following is a list of the activities undertaken by the MBA in 2019/2020 under the five strategic pillars included in the Association's strategic plan. This year can be accurately summarized as a different year given the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected all of us.

## Develop Deep, Smart Member Intelligence

*Deepen the knowledge and understanding of Members to better assess their aspirations, needs and satisfaction levels. Smarter data will lead to more relevant communications with Members and leading-edge offerings that equip them for success.*

- The MBA Executive Committee members monitor monthly membership statistics, monthly web-site usage, twitter account and email open and click through rates.
- A readership survey of *Headnotes & Footnotes* was conducted and some changes were made to the newsletter.
- In March 2020, the MBA started holding initially weekly and later monthly meetings with the managing partners of CBA/MBA Universal Firms (firms with 10 or more lawyers with 95% CBA members). The meetings provide an opportunity for these universal firms to share information regarding COVID-19.

## Deliver Distinct & Relevant Professional Development

*Deliver professional development (PD) that includes both substantive education and skill development. Substantive education is important and will continue. Skills development offerings will be enhanced. Skill development is broadly defined and will be determined based on member needs, and includes cultural competence and skills and tools for self-improvement and personal success. An increased emphasis will be placed on delivering offerings both in English and French.*

- The MBA, the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law and The Law Society of Manitoba featured the 2019 Isaac Pitblado Lectures on November 8, 2019. The conference was entitled, "Capacity to Decide: Planning for Death and Dying".
- The 2020 MBA Mid-Winter Conference was held on January 23 & 24, 2020. The conference featured 17 continuing professional development (CPD) sessions, which provided over 42 hours of CPD, including 2 hours of EPPM, a bench and bar reception, an exhibitor trade show and the Awards luncheon. Over 500 people attended the conference.
- In 2019-2020, over 3,800 members attended 76 Section meetings (46 in-person CPD sessions; 30 on-line sessions; 2 Section orientation sessions and 6 Section networking events) that provided 112.5 hours of CPD (including 15.5 EPPM hours), many offered at no charge for members. All in-person Section CPD and networking sessions were cancelled starting on March 18, 2020 due to COVID-19. Many Sections offered round table Zoom meetings to discuss the impact of the pandemic on their practice.
- In 2019-2020 the MBA offered the ability for membership to join Sections on-line. There is no cost to join any of the 36 MBA Sections.
- The MBA promoted other CBA on-line and Law Society of Manitoba CPD programs.

## Advocate on Behalf of the Profession

*Focus on issues that shape the legal profession, improve the law, or advance the Rule of Law, including access to justice, through means such as interventions and influencing the legislative process. Inform and solicit feedback from Members at all levels.*

- Representatives from the MBA met with the Attorney General and Minister of Justice for Manitoba.
- Letters were sent to the party leaders asking them to share their thoughts on justice issues in advance of the September 2019 provincial election.



Stacy Nagle

- The MBA Legislation and Law Reform Committee reviews legislation introduced and forwards it to Section representatives for their information and possible comments.
- Representatives of the MBA met with the Chiefs and Associate Chief Justices and Judges.
- Representatives from the MBA participated at Legal Aid Advisory Committee meetings.
- A representative from the MBA participates on the Public Interest Centre Advisory Committee.
- The MBA President, or their representative, spoke at Judicial swearing-in ceremonies.
- The MBA President, or their representative, participates on the Provincial Court Judicial Nominating Selection Committees. The MBA also has a representative on the Federal Judicial Advisory Committee.
- The MBA President, or their representative, participates on the Queen's Counsel Advisory Council.
- Responded to media inquiries.
- Representatives of the MBA continue to participate on the Family Law Modernization Collaboration Table.
- Attended a breakfast meeting with Chief Justice Richard Wagner, the Chiefs from the three levels of Court in Manitoba and the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the MBA and Law Society.
- Worked on getting legislative amendments made to allow for video witnessing of real property transactions, wills, powers of attorney and health care directives.
- Participated in a working group of Court Executive officers and CBA Executive Directors to share information on how to assist the Courts to move towards rescheduling adjourned Court matters to a virtual format.
- Due to the Winnipeg Courthouse renovation project, it was not possible to hold a Law Day open house in 2020. The plans for some high school students to still present mock trials in front of a Judge at the Winnipeg Courthouse and Law Day open house in Morden were cancelled due to COVID-19.
- The MBA, the Office of the Public Trustee, and The Winnipeg Foundation usually host several free estate-planning presentations for Will Week in April each year, however, they were cancelled due to COVID-19. A virtual session on Facebook was held on April 20, 2020.
- The MBA continues to participate with the Law Society of Manitoba's Forgivable Loan Program and the Access to Justice Committee and Sub-Committees.

## Prepare the Profession for the Future

*Building on a strong Futures foundation, further elevate CBA's leadership thinking to guide the profession toward a future that is*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *cont'd*

*in-step with emerging trends, needs and opportunities. See things before others see them and inspire Members to lean into the future.*

- Various Section meeting topics, including sessions at the MBA Mid-Winter Conference and articles contained in *Headnotes & Footnotes* focused on preparing the profession for the future.
- Continued to offer education sessions to lawyers to further our goals established in the City of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord.
- Provided members with various information, through email, on remote working, online lawyering, various well-being tips and tricks, maintaining productivity and balance while working from home, developed a COVID-19 resource hub on the MBA web-site, etc. during a pandemic.
- Various well-being sessions were offered.

## **Cultivate an Inclusive, Engaged Professional Community**

*Build a more powerful, inclusive, diverse and engaged professional community across Canada. Prioritize building membership among groups such as law students, articling students and young lawyers. Encourage Member exchange of knowledge, discourse on professional issues and peer-to-peer support. Facilitate interpersonal connections in person and, importantly, online.*

- The mentorship program matched 97 law students and lawyers and held two networking events.
- The MBA hosted a reception for first year law students at the beginning of orientation week at the Faculty of Law, spoke to CPLED students during the first week of classes, hosted a reception for CPLED students and sponsored an "Exam Cram" at the Faculty of Law. The Call to the Bar ceremony was postponed due to COVID-19.
- The MBA participated on a Committee that planned the Supreme Court of Canada dinner on September 26, 2019 and a number of MBA Past-Presidents were asked to be ambassadors for the Justices at the dinner.
- The contributions of the legal profession were recognized through Awards and the "What's Happening" column in *Headnotes & Footnotes*. The MBA also provides a financial prize (Solomon Greenberg Prize in Advocacy) for the first and second place students in the Robson Hall moot court competition.
- MBA Past-Presidents met to make a recommendation regarding the Distinguished Service Award recipient and discuss other matters.
- The MBA/RMTC joint production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* was scheduled to be held on May 6-9, 2020, however, the play had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Up until COVID-19 hit, various networking events were held throughout the year.
- A President's Reception was held to introduce the 2019-2020 MBA Executive Committee and Council members.
- MBA has a membership with Kids & Company Daycare. MBA members are guaranteed a full-time or part-time childcare spot within six months.
- Members of the MBA Executive attended regional bar meetings.
- Various membership recruitment and retention activities were held in 2019-2020.
- Ten editions of *Headnotes & Footnotes* were prepared and distributed. Some members choose to receive the

newsletter via a link to a pdf version or an on-line magazine format on the MBA web-site instead of a paper copy. Due to COVID-19 the newsletter was distributed in an electronic format only in May 2020 and June/July 2020 given the large number of members working from home.

- Approximately 700 copies of the 2020 Legal Directory and 650 copies of the Legal Directory and Dayplanner were sold.
- On average [www.cba-mb.ca](http://www.cba-mb.ca) has over 1,000 visitors each month.

## **Organizational Infrastructure**

- I participated on bi-weekly video conference meetings of the CBA Management Team, meetings of the CBA Leadership Forum, Western branch meetings and mid-size branch meetings. I also attend CBA Board of Directors meetings as an observer.
- Council and Executive Committee orientation sessions were held.
- Volunteer portals were set up on the MBA web-site to hold materials for Executive and Council meetings.
- The CBA moved to a new member log-in that requires members to establish their own passwords.
- The MBA continues to use twitter (@MBBarAssn) to promote its activities.
- Thank you letters were sent to MBA volunteers.
- All MBA staff receive yearly written evaluations.
- A guide for employee safety during emergencies as required under *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* was developed, approved and implemented.
- Staff is encouraged to take professional development.
- An audit was conducted on October 27, 2020 and no concerns were identified.
- MBA moved to new office space in November 2019 with space for a small boardroom.
- The MBA was deemed to be a non-essential business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans were made to have staff to work from home starting on March 18, 2020. In August 2020, MBA staff started working at the office again for approximately one month. Various safety measures were put in place, for example, purchasing of masks, bulk hand sanitizer, paying for staff parking costs and purchasing a temporary plexiglass shield to sit on the front reception desk.

This certainly has been a very different year for the MBA and for the entire world. The COVID-19 pandemic has made us all think about things very differently and have a greater appreciation for life, friends, and family. Personally, I also found a greater appreciation for the people I work with and I already had a pretty high appreciation for the staff and volunteers of the MBA, but this year raised it to a completely different level. Making Zoom our new best friend, getting used to not seeing people in person and quickly having to change how the MBA provides services to members were just some of the challenges we faced this year. Thankfully, the MBA staff, Melissa Tannahill, Chelsey Tait and Jana Vandale made these challenges look easy and hopefully they had some fun along the way. Volunteers also quickly adapted to the new on-line format of holding CPD sessions and meetings to provide needed member services. Thank you to everyone!

# SECRETARY / TREASURER'S REPORT

Following are the audited financial statements for the MBA for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2020, prepared by Jenkyns Smith, Chartered Accountant Ltd. This is the eighth year that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations (ASNFO), which the MBA adopted effective September 1, 2012. Several items are worthy of note:

- This fiscal year marks the beginning of the unprecedented COVID-19 Pandemic. It goes without saying that we have had significant disruption to our anticipated programs. This has affected our income in a relatively small way while greatly impacting our expenditures.
- To allow our budget to match up with the CBA budget and statements, our revenue and expense categories have been organized in accordance with our strategic plan areas. This is the second year that we have organized our financial accounts this way.
- As you know, the MBA is a not-for-profit. This means that we are expected, as much as possible to neither make nor lose money. At the same time, it is reasonably prudent to not exhaust our funds each year, so we attempt to control our operational surplus through the use of small deficit budgets. However, as a result of the benefit of having most of our fundraising activities prior to the introduction of the pandemic in our province, having some of the anticipated expenditures delayed or reduced and, as always, the expert and careful monitoring of our expenses this year by Stacy, we were able to have a net income of \$39,065.
- The aggregate of Current Assets and Long Term Investments at year-end grew from \$436,293 to \$524,241. The Long Term Investments were increased by \$8,451 earned from value increase and interest. Our investments are now

broken into Equity funds worth \$136,218, an increase of \$5,853 over last year, and GIC's worth \$106,386 an increase in value of \$2,598 over last year. Roughly 50% of the GIC's will mature every year, providing the MBA with a balance between consistent guaranteed growth and available funds should they be required. The Equity Funds will still allow us to capture overall market growth income.

- Our aggregate revenue decreased this year from \$588,155 in 2019 to \$561,471 this year, while our expenses also decreased from \$555,839 in 2019 to \$519,329. This means our loss of income was more than made up by the decrease in expenses. The decrease on both sides was primarily due to the impacts of COVID-19. While we had the majority of our income generation prior to the pandemic, we had a number of events (Law Day, wrap ups, etc) cancelled as a result of it. These events are generally revenue neutral or slight cost events.
- The MBA continues to be fiscally prudent and financially strong, putting it on a solid foundation for the realization of its short and long-term strategic goals. We are entering this very uncertain year with \$430,604 in Net Assets at the end of the year and \$392,789 in cash and easily redeemable investments.
- While I am technically responsible for the budget, all the credit for the hard work and excellent care should go to our Executive Director, Stacy Nagle and her hard working team.



*Peter Kingsley, Q.C.*

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Manitoba Bar Association

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Manitoba Bar Association (the Association), which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2020, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at August 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**December 17, 2020**



**Jenkyns Smith, Chartered Professional Accountants**

The financial statements and notes presented are excerpts from the complete financial statements. To obtain a full set of the financial statements please contact the branch.

## Statement of Financial Position 31 August 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$256,571	\$174,024
Accounts receivable	1,996	3,266
Goods and services tax recoverable	1,269	1,916
Prepaid expenses	13,339	22,256
	<b>273,175</b>	<b>201,464</b>
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (Notes 2, 3)	242,604	234,153
CAPITAL ASSETS (Notes 2, 4)	8,462	676
	<b>524,241</b>	<b>436,293</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 82,407	\$ 32,119
Deferred revenue (Note 2)	11,230	12,635
	<b>93,637</b>	<b>44,754</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
General Fund	422,142	\$390,863
Capital Fund	8,462	676
	<b>430,604</b>	<b>391,539</b>
	<b>\$524,241</b>	<b>\$436,293</b>

## Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Year Ended 31 August 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Professional Community	\$86,908	\$107,007
Professional Development - Sections	2,279	14,140
Professional Development - Other	145,433	152,320
Operational Infrastructure	326,851	314,688
	<b>561,471</b>	<b>588,155</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Governance	30,495	45,950
Professional Community	64,600	82,671
Professional Development	94,732	115,884
Prepare for the Future	750	750
Operational Infrastructure	328,752	310,584
	<b>519,329</b>	<b>555,839</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>42,142</b>	<b>32,316</b>
CAPITAL FUND		
Amortization	(3,077)	(4,505)
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$39,065</b>	<b>\$27,811</b>

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets Year Ended 31 August 2020

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>CAPITAL FUND</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$390,863</b>	<b>\$676</b>	<b>\$391,539</b>	<b>\$363,728</b>
Excess of membership revenue over expenses	42,142	(3,077)	39,065	27,811
Transfer to Capital Fund for purchase of equipment	(10,863)	10,863	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$422,142</b>	<b>\$8,462</b>	<b>\$430,604</b>	<b>\$391,539</b>

### Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended 31 August 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash receipts from customers	\$551,132	\$579,441
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(460,123)	(564,838)
Interest received	10,205	11,648
Goods and services tax	647	(656)
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	101,861	25,595
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(10,863)	-
Purchase of marketable securities	(8,451)	(9,594)
Cash flow used by investing activities	(19,314)	(9,594)
<b>INCREASE IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>82,547</b>	<b>16,001</b>
Cash - Beginning of Year	174,024	158,023
<b>CASH END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$256,571</b>	<b>\$174,024</b>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended August 31, 2020

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Manitoba Bar Association, a branch of The Canadian Bar Association, is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the economic, professional and social interest and well-being of its members throughout the province of Manitoba. The Manitoba Bar Association represents approximately 1,600 members of Manitoba's legal profession including: lawyers, judges, law students and law professors.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO).

### Fund Accounting

The Association follows the restricted fund method of accounting. Revenue and expenses related to program delivery and administration are reported in the General Fund, on an accrual basis. Purchases, sales and amortization of capital assets are reported in the Capital Fund.

### Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Computer equipment	3 years	straight-line method
Furniture and fixtures	5 years	straight-line method

The Association regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items.

### Investments

Investments are classified as held for trading and are recorded at market value.

### Revenue Recognition

Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably assured. Investment income is recognized as revenue of the General Fund when earned.

Fees and other income are recognized as revenue of the General Fund when the events are held and or services or products are provided.

### Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue reported in the General Fund relates to revenue collected for the legal directory which will not be issued until the subsequent year.

### Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

### Financial Instruments

Fair Value - Fair value is the amount that would be agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable willing parties who are under no compulsion to act. Fair value is an estimate, which is significantly affected by the assumptions and methods used in its determination. Further, estimation of fair value involves the use of subjective judgments and uncertainty. Fair value should not be interpreted as an amount which could be realized in immediate settlement of the instruments. With the exception of investments, management has estimated that the fair value of all financial instruments approximate their cost, as there is no active market for the assets and liabilities of the association that are financial instruments. The fair value of investments is based on the quoted market values.

## 3. INVESTMENTS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Equity funds	\$136,218	\$130,365
Guaranteed Investment certificates	106,386	103,788
Investments are recorded at market value	<u>\$242,604</u>	<u>\$234,153</u>

## 4. CAPITAL ASSETS

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>
Computer equipment	\$33,110	\$32,072	\$31,552	\$30,876
Furniture & Fixtures	<u>17,571</u>	<u>10,147</u>	<u>8,266</u>	<u>8,266</u>
	\$50,681	\$42,219	\$39,818	\$39,142
Net Book Value		<u>\$8,462</u>		<u>\$ 676</u>

## 5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The association is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the association's risk exposure and concentration as of August 31, 2020.

### Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The association is exposed to credit risk from customers. In order to reduce its credit risk, the association reviews a new customer's credit history before extending credit and conducts regular reviews of its existing customers' credit performance. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts, historical trends and other information. The association has a significant number of customers which minimizes concentration of credit risk.

### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The association is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its customers and other related sources, long-term debt, obligations under capital leases, contributions to the pension plan, and accounts payable.

## 6. COMMITMENTS

On November 1, 2019 the Association entered into a 84 month lease for its office, terminating on October 31, 2026. Annual Base rent is as follows for the periods November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020 \$32,448 per annum, November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2022 \$34,944 per annum, November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2024 \$37,440 per annum, and November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2026 \$39,936 per annum plus common area costs. So long as the Association is not in default of the Lease the Association will not be required to paid the annual basic rent for the following periods: the months of November 2019, October 2020, October 2021, October 2022, October 2023, and October 2026.

## Section Chairs 2019-2020

Within brackets, the first figure indicates the number of members enrolled, and the second figure indicates the number of meetings, events or continuing professional development programs held in 2019/2020.

### **Aboriginal Law (143; 2)**

Jöelle Pastora Sala, Co-Chair

Jared Wheeler, Co-Chair

### **Administrative Law (235; 2)**

Tim Lach, Co-Chair

Bob Dawson, Co-Chair

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution (195; 0)**

Vacant

### **Animal Law (61; 1)**

Elizabeth McCandless, Co-Chair

Catherine Skinner, Co-Chair

### **Business Law (303; 1)**

Jeff Kowall, Chair (until March 2020)

Brant Harvevy, Chair (effective March 2020)

### **CCCA (Canadian Corporate Counsel Association) (275; 4)**

Michael Jason, Co-Chair

Kira Petersson-Martin, Co-Chair

### **Child & Youth Law (115; 1)**

Sandra Bracken, Co-Chair

Meredith Mitchell, Co-Chair

### **Civil Litigation (297; 3)**

Kalyn Bombback, Chair

### **Constitutional/Human Rights (217; 1)**

Meghan Menzies, Co-Chair

Bryton Moen, Co-Chair

### **Construction & Infrastructure Law (150; 0)**

Bailey Harris, Chair

### **Criminal Justice (166; 0)**

Melissa Hazelton, Co-Chair

James Wood, Co-Chair (until April 6, 2020)

Wendy Martin White, Co-Chair (as of April 6, 2020)

### **Elder Law (100; 1)**

Sharon Tod, Chair

### **Entertainment, Media and Communications Law (102; 1)**

Robert Sokalski, Chair

### **Environmental, Energy and Resources Law (90; 0)**

Sheryl Rosenberg, Chair

### **Equality Issues (135; 0)**

Laurelle Harris, Chair

### **Family Law (250; 13)**

Robynne Kazina, Chair

### **French Speaking Common Law Members (54; 0)**

Vacant

### **Health Law (111; 1)**

Daniel Ryall, Co-Chair

Elisabeth Olson, Co-Chair

### **Immigration Law (118; 2)**

Maria Penner, Chair

### **Insolvency Law (98; 2)**

David Silver, Chair

### **International Law (90; 0)**

Philip Watts, Chair

### **Labour & Employment Law (216; 2)**

Jason Gisser, Chair

### **Law Practice Management (183; 0)**

Vacant

### **Legal Research (193; 7)**

David Davis, Chair

### **Municipal Law (102; 0)**

Diana King, Co-Chair

John Prystanski, Co-Chair

### **Public Sector Lawyers (96; 3)**

Melanie Bueckert, Chair

### **Real Property (303; 4)**

Ned Brown, Co-Chair

Jason Bryk, Co-Chair

### **Securities Law (104; 1)**

Don MacDonald, Chair

### **SOGIC Manitoba (58; 1)**

Joel Lebois, Chair

### **Small, Solo and General Practice (144; 2)**

Sidney Laviolette, Chair

### **Taxation Law (137; 1)**

Paul Grower, Contact

### **Technology, Intellectual Property & Privacy Law (154; 2)**

Andrew Buck, Chair

### **Transportation Law (47; 0)**

Joseph Barnsley, Chair

### **Wills, Estates and Trusts (316; 4)**

Charlotte McCurdy, Chair

### **Women Lawyers (342; 5)**

Kim Antonio, Co-Chair

The Hon. Justice Annette Horst, Judicial Co-Chair

### **Young Lawyers (367; 2)**

Hilary Taylor, Chair

### **MBA Branch Statistics**

<i>Members</i>	<i>Sections</i>
1,626	36
<i>Section Membership</i>	
6,067	



## 2019/2020 SECTION ACTIVITY

### Aboriginal Law

October 18, 2019	Indigenous Peacemaking Project
January 23, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Reconciliation: What's Law Got to do with it?

### Administrative Law

January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Supreme Court of Canada Trilogy
May 21, 2020	Researching and Writing the Perfect Legal Research Memo Webinar

### Animal Law

October 30, 2019	Who Gets the Dog? Family Property Division and Disputes Over Custody of Pets Webinar
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### Business Law

January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Intellectual Property Considerations in Purchase and Sale Transactions ( <i>joint session with Technology, Intellectual Property &amp; Privacy Law Section</i> )
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### CCCA (Canadian Corporate Counsel Association)

November 20, 2019	Best Practices for In-House Counsel: A Knowledge Sharing and Networking Roundtable
December 10, 2019	Employee Surveillance and Social Media Workplace Issues
February 25, 2020	Managing the Modern Workplace: Best Practices for Respectful Investigations
June 23, 2020	Discussion on adversity, resilience, wellness and how life has changed due to COVID-19 Webinar

### Child & Youth Law

April 7, 2020	Child Protection Operations of the Family Division of MBQB Webinar ( <i>joint session with Family Law Section</i> )
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### Civil Litigation

December 3, 2019	Trial Primer
January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Motions to Dismiss for Delay
April 15, 2020	Court Directive – COVID-19 ( <i>teleconference</i> )

### Constitutional/Human Rights

November 22, 2019	Practical guide to the human rights complaint process in Manitoba
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### Elder Law

June 29, 2020	What to do when your client has received a letter from the Director of Psychiatric Services Webinar
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### Entertainment, Media & Communications

December 4, 2019	A Round Table Discussion on Recent Developments in Entertainment & Media Law facilitated by Bob Sokalski from Hill Sokalski Walsh LLP
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### Family Law

October 15, 2019	Welcome to Family Law - What they didn't teach you at law school
December 11, 2019	Changes to Part VI of <i>The Family Maintenance Act</i>
December 16, 2019	Annual Holiday Party
January 23, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Family Law – A Year in Review – Part I
January 23, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Family Law – A Year in Review – Part II
January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Family Issues in Estate Matters ( <i>joint session with Wills, Estates &amp; Trusts Section</i> )
January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Insolvency Issues in Family Law ( <i>joint session with Insolvency Law Section</i> )
March 24, 2020	COVID-19 and the Practice of Family Law Webinar
April 6, 2020	Operations of the Family Division of MBQB Webinar
April 7, 2020	Child Protection Operations of the Family Division of MBQB Webinar ( <i>joint session with Child &amp; Youth Law Section</i> )
April 9, 2020	Zoom Roundtable on COVID-19 and the Practice of Family Law Webinar
May 1, 2020	Zoom Roundtable on COVID-19 and the Practice of Family Law Webinar
May 20, 2020	Zoom Roundtable on COVID-19 and the Practice of Family Law Webinar

### Health Law

December 12, 2019	Recent Developments in Informed Consent
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### Immigration Law

December 11, 2019	Update from CBSA Enforcement
February 25, 2020	Update from the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program

### Insolvency Law

December 17, 2019	Joint Session with MAIRP ( <i>Manitoba Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals</i> )
January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Insolvency Issues in Family Law ( <i>joint session with Family Law Section</i> )

### Labour & Employment Law

October 8, 2019	Pensions 101: Pension Considerations for Labour & Employment Law Counsel
January 23, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Ensuring Safe Workplaces

### Legal Research

September 9, 2019	Legislative Library Information Session
November 27, 2019	ALEXSEI Webinar
December 19, 2019	Annual Holiday Party
January 23, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Strategic Use of Research to Advocate for Social Change

# 2019/2020 SECTION ACTIVITY



January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Manitoba Law Reform Commission
March 4, 2020	Research in Manitoba's Legal Community: Lightning Talks 2020 (session at Robson Hall)
June 24, 2020	Year End Wrap Up

## Public Sector Lawyers

February 10, 2020	Manitoba's New <i>Public Service Act</i>
April 16, 2020	Religious Freedom in the Public Sector Webinar
Jun 25, 2020	Public Sector Roundtable on the Impacts of COVID-19 Webinar

## Real Property

September 26, 2019	Land subdivision from the perspective of the Land Titles Office/the Property Registry
December 19, 2019	What is - and what is not - an interest in land? – Part 2
January 23, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Income Tax Considerations in Residential Realty Conveyancing
January 23, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Legal Services for Agricultural Producers

## Securities Law

December 4, 2019	Review of current developments
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## SOGIC Manitoba

October 29, 2019	Reception with OUTLAWS – Robson Hall
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## Small, Solo and General Practice

December 16, 2019	When Bad Things Happen to Good Lawyers: Disaster Planning and Risk Management for Solo Practitioners and Small Firms
April 3, 2020	Practicing Law During A Pandemic: Practical and Professional Advice for Manitoba Lawyers Webinar

## Taxation Law

January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Current Issues in Tax Law
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## Technology, Intellectual Property & Privacy Law

January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Intellectual Property Considerations in Purchase and Sale Transactions (joint session with Business Law Section)
June 22, 2020	Year End Wrap Up Meeting Webinar

## Wills, Estates and Trusts

October 17, 2019	Roundtable Discussion with Manitoba Law Reform Commission on its Report "Reform of the <i>Wills Act</i> Revisited"
November 28, 2019	Basic Will Drafting: Tips and Challenges (joint session with Young Lawyers' Section)
January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Family Issues in Estate Matters (joint session with Family Law Section)
February 18, 2020	Everything but the FPA – A review of the legislation affecting estate planning and administration in the family law context

## Women Lawyers

December 5, 2019	Roundtable Discussion – Part 1 Maternity/Parental Leaves – Planning to take a Leave
January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Outside the Mold: New and Creative Opportunities for Marketing
June 3, 2020	WLF Coffee Talk – Wellness Webinar
June 19, 2020	WLF Coffee Talk – Returning to work after COVID Webinar
July 17, 2020	Intimate Images Legislation Webinar

## Young Lawyers

November 7, 2019	Young Lawyers' Section Social Event
November 28, 2019	Basic Will Drafting: Tips and Challenges (joint session with Wills, Estates & Trusts Section)
January 24, 2020	Mid-Winter CPD – Three C's of the First Five Years of Practice: Conditions, Children, and Complaints
April 27, 2020	Lunchtime Yoga Session Webinar
July 9, 2020	Young Lawyers' Coffee and Check-In Webinar



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