

2025

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 2024-2025

President..... Jessica Schofield
Vice-President..... Stacey Soldier
Secretary/Treasurer..... Bryton Moen
Director of Membership..... Robert Pellizzaro
Director of Advocacy and
Public Relations..... Wendy Martin White, K.C.

Past President..... Jason Gisser
Equity Member-at-Large..... Chidera Anadi-Mbanefo
CBA Board Representative..... Ken Mandzuik, K.C.
Executive Director..... Michelle Falk

Elected Council 2024-2025

WINNIPEG JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael Badejo
Natasha Brown
Jason Bryk, K.C.
Silvia de Sousa
Darrin Davis
Sadira Garfinkel
Jason Gisser *
Wendy Martin White, K.C. *
Maria Mitousis
Bryton Moen
Sharna Nelko
Riley Nolan
David Silver
Jennifer Sokal
Jessica Schofield *
Stacey Solider *
Megan Spencer
Dayna Steinfeld
Heather Wadsworth

CENTRAL/EASTERN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Nichole Hiebert

WESTERN/DAUPHIN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Jill Giesbrecht

NORTHERN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Robert Pellizzaro

MLSA Representative

Marianna Pozdirca

Articling Student Representative

Eric Gagnon

** Designated voting member*

STAFF

Executive Director – Michelle Falk

Section Coordinator – Chelsey Tait

Administrative Assistant – Alexander Schultz

Law Student – Catherine Acebo

Special Thanks to MBA Volunteers

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.

2025 Mid-Winter Conference Committee

Meghan Ross *Co-Chair*
Abram Silver, *Co-Chair*
Adriel Agpalza
Alexis Bailey
Stéphanie Bauch
Krista Clendenning
Anthony Foderaro
Autumn Giles
Katrina Scaramuzzi
Bonnie Schmidt
Stacey Soldier

2025 Royal MTC/MBA Production - *The Man Who Came to Dinner*

Gail Asper
Clair Cerilli
Paula Ethans
Nancy Fazenda
Reid Girard
Caleigh Glawson
Cynthia Hiebert-Simkin
Joan Holmstrom
Peter Kingsley
David Kroft
Jerrit Lipski
Hayley Main
Jim McLandress
Jeff Palamar
Jodi Plenert
Brad Regehr
Jaime Rosin
Mike Segstro
Boris Senchuk
Heather Wadsworth

CBA Well-Being Committee Member

Maria Mitousis

Court of King's Bench & Bar Liaison Committee

The Hon. Justice Michael Thomson, *Chairperson*

Judicial Inquiry Board

Ken Mandzuik, K.C.

Lawyers' Financial

Karen Wittman

Legal Aid Advisory Committee Representatives

Laurelle Harris, K.C.
Stacey Soldier

Legal Help Centre MBA Board Representative

Nick Slonosky

Legislation & Law Reform Committee

Melanie Bueckert, *Chair*
Danielle Dubois
Steve Falkingham
Jason Gisser
Maria Reimer

Manitoba Law Foundation MBA Board Representative

Candray Mehkary

Provincial Court Bench & Bar Liaison Committee

The Honourable Judge Kael McKenzie, *Chairperson*

HONOURS 2024-2025

2025 MBA Distinguished Service Award Recipient:

The Hon. Judge Mary Kate Harvie



2025 Pro Bono Award Recipients:

Chief Justice Richard Scott (*posthumously*) and Justice Alan MacInnes



2024 MBA Access to Justice Award:

Zilla Jones

2024 MBA Community Involvement Award:

Darrin Davis

2024 MBA Council Member Award:

Maria Mitousis



2024 President's Award of Excellence:

Sharon Kravetsky, K.C.



2024 Grant Davis Collegiality & Well-Being Award:

Clay Stewart

2024 Edward (Ned) Brown Headnotes & Footnotes Award:

Melanie Wire



2024 Section Activity Award:

Equality Section
Laurelle Harris, K.C., Chair

2024 Isabel Ross (MacLean) Hunt Award:

Justice Annette Horst



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the Manitoba Bar Association for the 2024–2025 fiscal year. This role has provided a meaningful opportunity to engage with members across the province, collaborate with justice system stakeholders, and contribute to initiatives that strengthen our profession.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to represent the Manitoba Bar Association both provincially and nationally, participate in key discussions impacting the legal community, and support the ongoing work of our dedicated volunteers and staff. I am pleased to present this Annual Report and reflect on the progress and accomplishments of the Association over the past year.

Leadership and Gratitude

The work of the Manitoba Bar Association is made possible through the commitment of a dedicated and highly effective team. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Executive Director Michelle Falk, Chelsey Tait, and Alexander Schultz. It continues to be remarkable how much is accomplished by such a small and capable staff team.

I would also like to thank the members of the Executive and Council for their time, insight, and leadership. It has been a privilege to work closely with Stacey Soldier throughout my term, and I look forward to seeing the continued success of the MBA under her presidency.

I would like to acknowledge Jason Gisser for his longstanding dedication and leadership. His mentorship has been invaluable, and the Association is stronger because of his contributions. I am also pleased to welcome Michael as a new member of the Executive and to congratulate Bryton Moen on his role as Director of Membership. His steady leadership continues to be an asset to the organization.

Membership

The MBA continues to maintain a strong and engaged membership base. Our ability to deliver high-quality programming, advocacy, and networking opportunities is a direct reflection of the commitment of our members and volunteers.

Engagement remains strong across Sections, events, and mentorship initiatives, reflecting the value that members place on connection and professional development within the legal community.

Advocacy and Representation

Advocacy remained a central pillar of the MBA's work this year. I had the opportunity to participate in a number of key meetings with government representatives, members of the judiciary, and legal stakeholders on issues impacting the profession and access to justice.

Notably, meetings included discussions with the Minister of Justice, the Justice Critic and members of the PC caucus, as well as leadership within the Provincial Court and Court of Appeal. These engagements focused on legislative developments, court processes, and broader system challenges.

I was also able to continue to work with the Court of King's Bench Family Division throughout my term as President and thank Associate Chief Justice Hatch for considering the input of the MBA.

The MBA also continued its presence in public discourse, including issuing a media statement on matters of public interest

that was cited by major provincial media outlets.

Professional Development and Education

Professional development remains a cornerstone of the MBA's work. Our Sections and volunteers once again delivered a wide range of continuing professional development opportunities, including conferences, mixers, and specialized programming.

Signature events included the Mid-Winter Conference, mentorship mixers, and Section-hosted events, all of which continue to foster professional growth and community engagement across the province.

Key Initiatives and Accomplishments

Joint MBA/LAM Advocacy Program

One of the most significant accomplishments during my time on the Executive has been the development and continued success of the Joint MBA/Legal Aid Manitoba Advocacy Program. The second annual program was held in March 2025 and continues to evolve to meet the needs of members.

This initiative would not have been possible without the strong collaboration and support of the Court, including Associate Chief Justice Hatch, Justice Petersen, Justice Abel and Justice Thomson, as well as Legal Aid Manitoba and the continued support of Peter Kingsley, K.C. I also want to thank Lawrence Pinsky K.C. for his commitment to the Program and his contributions to the MBA. I remain committed to supporting the continued growth and adaptation of this program.

Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Profession

The MBA continued its work on the joint committee examining the use of artificial intelligence in the legal profession. This included stakeholder meetings and collaboration with the Law Society and Robson Hall leadership, reflecting the importance of proactively addressing emerging technologies.

Governance and Policy Development

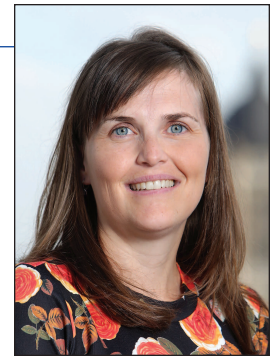
This year also included work on developing a Safe and Respectful Engagement Policy, reinforcing the MBA's commitment to professionalism and inclusion. Efforts were also made to ensure strong governance through recruitment of a full slate of Council nominees.

Community Engagement and Events

Throughout the year, I participated in numerous events representing the MBA, including:

- Swearing-in ceremonies for members of the judiciary
- MBA mentorship and articling mixers
- Section events and holiday gatherings
- Meetings with judiciary and legal stakeholders
- National and regional Canadian Bar Association leadership meetings
- Community events such as the SOGIC Pride Reception and Internationally Trained Lawyers' Section Mixer

These engagements are critical to maintaining strong relationships across the legal community and ensuring that the MBA remains responsive and connected.



Jessica Schofield

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *cont'd*

Mental Health and Wellness

The MBA continues to recognize the importance of mental health and wellness within the legal profession. Through ongoing programming, mentorship, and collaboration with partners, we remain committed to supporting the well-being of our members.

Looking Towards the Future

As my term comes to a close, I am confident that the MBA is well-positioned for continued success. The Association benefits from strong leadership, an engaged membership, and a clear commitment to advancing the profession.

In the coming months, I will participate in national CBA leadership meetings and represent the MBA at the Call to Bar

Ceremony. I will also work closely with incoming President Stacey Soldier to ensure a smooth and effective transition.

Conclusion

Serving as President of the Manitoba Bar Association has been an honour. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated colleagues and to contribute to an organization that plays a vital role in our legal community.

The strength of the MBA lies in its people—our members, volunteers, staff, and leaders. Thank you for your continued commitment and for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Schofield

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My term serving as Vice-President (2024-2025) was an incredible time of learning and getting to know members of the bar. At every event I attended, I had the opportunity to meet new people and see old faces that I hadn't seen in some time. While I began the year with anxiety about taking on the role of President just one short year away, I benefited from watching the great Jessica Schofield in her role as President. She accomplished so much, and I am privileged to walk in her footsteps.

In that role, I was able to assist and work alongside Jessica as she fulfilled her role.

I started my year as Vice-President by attending the 1L Champagne Reception at Robson Hall and spoke at the Welcome to the Profession for articling students at the Law Society of Manitoba classroom.

On October 9, 2024, I attended to the Legislative Building to speak to the Committee on Bill 209.

Part of my duties also included supporting the Sections and providing oversight of Section activity. It was a pleasure to meet with the Section Chairs at various times throughout the year and see firsthand their passion and enthusiasm.

Our Sections provide valuable professional development and networking opportunities for our lawyers. The time and effort invested by section chairs and members in coordinating events are greatly appreciated. Chelsey Tait does an incredible job in organizing and assisting as part of her duties as Sections Coordinator. A huge thank you to Chelsey!

I would like to highlight a few notable section events from the year. On November 21, 2024, I then attended the inaugural "In Good Relations" event at Migizii Agamik hosted by the Indigenous Legal Forum and Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association. I don't mind admitting that I used my best tricks to win the prize in the networking bingo challenge. To read more on the event, please see <https://news.umanitoba.ca/fostering-connections-milsas-in-good-relations-event-strengthens-community-within-manitobas-indigenous-bar/>

Throughout the year, I attended two Equity Section events as well as the MBA Spring Mentorship Mixer. I was also pleased to participate in the Women Lawyers' Forum Section, where we celebrated women judges who were retiring and who were appointed in the past year.

We had a successful start to the year with the Midwinter Conference on January 23 & 24, 2025, and the MBA Council meeting on January 25, 2025. I must acknowledge Michelle, Chelsey and Alex and the work they put into making this conference a success. The Executive attended a dinner with the CBA President Lynne Vicars and CEO Steve Levitt.

One event that stood out for me was the Harry Walsh, K.C. Lectures at Robson Hall. I attended the lectures to bring greetings on behalf of the MBA and hosted the Robson Hall podcast with the incomparable Marie Henein.

I was very pleased to attend the Swearing-In Ceremony for Justice Potter on December 13, 2024, and Judge Labossiere on April 17, 2025. Having known both for many years, it is a thrill to see their hard work, fierce intellect and compassion be rewarded and they are wonderful additions to the bench.

I also attended a meeting with Justice Critic and other PC MLAs on March 26, 2025.

Throughout the year, I also attended MBA Executive Meetings, MBA Branch Council Meetings, Mid-Winter planning meetings, Jessica's President's Reception, the Law Society President's Reception for Kyle Dear.

I wish our incoming Vice-President, Rob Pellizaro, all the best in his new role. I look forward to working with Rob and all of the members of the Executive in my year as your President.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Soldier



Stacey Soldier

MEMBERSHIP/MEMBER SERVICES REPORT



Robert Pellizzaro

It has been a privilege to serve as Director of Membership for the Manitoba Bar Association (MBA) over the past year, and I am pleased to report that our membership remains strong and stable, continuing a positive multi year trend.

As of June 1, 2025, the MBA has 1,618 total active members in Manitoba, representing 98.1% of our overall membership target. This total reflects an increase of 11 members over the previous year (1,607) and confirms the continued strength and relevance of the Association within Manitoba's legal community. We continue to represent a significant majority of practicing lawyers in the province—an achievement that underscores the value our members place on the MBA's advocacy, professional development, and collegial support.

Throughout the 2024–2025 membership year, overall figures consistently met or exceeded targets across most membership categories. Membership grew steadily from 1,542 members in January 2025, to 1,579 members by March 1, 2025, culminating in the current total of 1,618 members. This growth reflects strong renewal rates, steady new member acquisitions, and ongoing engagement among practicing lawyers.

One notable area of improvement this year was articling student membership, which increased from 52 members in 2023–2024 to 62 members in 2024–2025. While student membership overall continues to trail slightly behind long-term targets—largely due

to the requirement for students to actively consent despite universal eligibility—this increase is a positive indication that our outreach and engagement efforts are gaining traction. Our ongoing partnership with the University of Manitoba remains a cornerstone of this work, providing students with early exposure to the benefits of MBA membership and opportunities to participate in mentorship and professional programming.

Our continued success is due in large part to the commitment of our members and the dedication of the MBA's volunteer leadership. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Executive Committee, Council, Michelle, and the MBA staff for their collaboration and tireless efforts throughout the year. Together, we have worked to ensure that membership remains accessible, meaningful, and responsive to the needs of lawyers at all stages of their careers.

Serving as Director of Membership has been both an honour and a rewarding experience. I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to continuing my service to the Association as Vice President in the 2025–2026 term.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Pellizzaro

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

2024-2025 was my first year in the role of Director of Advocacy and Public Relations. It was an eventful year, and one filled with pride as I reflect on all the work of our profession and the contributions of so many distinguished colleagues.

May 6, 2024 - I attended the first-ever Access to Justice Forum at Robson Hall and was delighted to hear Mark Kruse and Laurelle Harris speak about access to justice issues for Indigenous and racialized people.

June 14, 2024 - I attended the morning Strategic Planning Session for the MBA and the afternoon Council meeting.

July 2024 - I attended the Executive Council dinner and an orientation session with Michelle Falk.

August 2024 - I provided a written report and assisted in organizing the Criminal Law section's upcoming panel discussion, which will be held on October 30, 2024, from noon to 1:30 p.m. as part of Access to Justice Week. Three panellists will present on "Victim Impact and Community Impact Statements."

September 4, 2024 - I attended my first Executive Council meeting at Taylor McCaffrey's offices.

September 17, 2024 - I attended an Access to Justice meeting with the Chair, Natasha Brown, and other planning committee members.

September 25, 2024 - MBA President's Reception - I attended the MBA President's Reception for Jessica Schofield which was held at the Fort Garry Hotel. It was a well-attended event and our then President gave a very warm speech and elaborated on the theme of her presidency, being mentorship.

October 28 - November 1, 2024 - Access to Justice Planning Committee - I participated in the Access to Justice week planning and activities which ran from October 28-November 1, 2024. There were four events planned for the week, including the panel hosted by the Criminal Law section on Victim and Community Impact Statements, a panel event hosted by the Young Lawyers and Internationally Trained Lawyers Sections highlighting tools and resources available to young lawyers, a joint panel hosted by CLEA and Legal Aid, and finally a panel hosted by Robson Hall on prison libraries.

December 13, 2024 - I attended Justice Potter's swearing in ceremony on behalf of the MBA.

January, 2025 - January was busy with preparation for the MBA Mid-Winter meeting.

January 23-24, 2025 - Mid-Winter Conference - I attended various sessions and spoke at the Child and Youth law Section panel about "On-Line Harms".

January 24, 2025 - MBA Award Luncheon - I presented the various MBA awards to the nominees at the Awards' Lunch. The recipients were:

Access to Justice Award: Zilla Jones

Community Involvement Award: Darrin Davis

Council Member Award: Maria Mitousis

Grant Davis Collegiality & Well-Being Award: Clay Stewart

Edward (Ned) Brown Headnotes & Footnotes Award: Melanie Wire

Isabel Ross (MacLean) Hunt Award: Justice Annette Horst

President's Award of Excellence: Sharon Kravetsky, K.C.

Section Activity Award: Equity Section

The calibre of recipients was remarkable. Of note, Judge Harvie of the Manitoba Provincial Court gave an incredibly funny and inspiring speech in receipt of her well-deserved Distinguished Service Award.

Michelle Falk, Chelsey Tait and Alex Schultz as always worked so hard to bring together such a terrific Mid-Winter. I was also pleased I was able to meet CBA national President, Lynne Vicars and the national Chief Executive Officer, Steve Levitt during the conference and at an informal dinner on Thursday night.

February-May, 2025

Lawyers' Play Committee - I sat on the 2025 Lawyers Play Committee for the RMTTC lawyers' play: The Man Who Came to Dinner, which ran from May 7-10, 2025. The play was fantastic, as always, and I presented the cheque and gave remarks on behalf of the MBA at the May 10, 2025 play.

Sankofa Lecture - I attended the lecture on February 3, 2025 at the Manitoba Law Society. The guest speaker was Dr. Adelle Blackett, McGill University Faculty of Law and she was fantastic. I was impressed with the turnout. Congratulations to the committee who puts this on every year.

MBA Executive Meeting - I attended this meeting on February 12, 2025.

MBA Mixer/Robson Hall Student Event - I attended Robson Hall on Feb 27, 2025, 5:00-8:00 p.m. to meet with criminal law students. It was great to meet informally with students and to field questions about the practice of criminal law. It was well attended, and the feedback has been extremely positive. The MBA Criminal Justice Section will be co-hosting the event next year with the student group and adopting their name for the event: Crime and Cheese.

Access to Justice Public Awareness Campaign - the Law Foundation Grant for \$50,000 was approved and LAM contributed \$25,000 towards our Access to Justice Public Awareness campaign

- estimates have been received, and a decision has been made to work with [UpHouse Inc.](#)
- content will be approved by stakeholders prior to campaign launch
- the campaign was launched in April

Marie Henein Guest Lecture - I attended the Faculty of Law Distinguished Lecturer's series on March 3, 2025, and was invited to a follow up dinner with Ms. Henein after the lecture. It was an impressive lecture on the erosion of democratic values and a harbinger of what has become an all too familiar attack on the



Wendy Martin White, K.C.

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS *cont'd*

rule of law and our democratic institutions both to the south of us and here at home.

SOGIC Meeting – I met with the SOGIC section to discuss Bill 26 on April 1, 2025

Manitoba Court of Appeal Electronic Filing Procedures Meeting – I attended this meeting on behalf of the MBA on April 16, 2025

MBA Council Executive Meeting – I attended this meeting on May 7, 2025

Swearing-in Ceremony for Justices Monnin and Johnston – I attended this lovely event on behalf of the MBA on May 9, 2025:

Access to Justice Stakeholder Forum – I attended the first day of this Forum on May 23, 2025. It was excellent and in particular, the workshops I was able to participate in.

MBA Annual Meeting of Council – I attended this Council meeting on June 12, 2025. It was again well attended and was followed by an informal reception.

MBA Executive/Staff Year End Dinner – I attended this dinner on June 12, 2025.

Law Society President's Reception – I attended the incoming President, Kyle Dear's Reception on June 26, 2025. It was a lovely event and President Dear gave a very humble and thoughtful speech. I look forward to working with her during her term.

Throughout the year, I assisted in editing all the editions of Headnotes & Footnotes. I also advised on many responses to the media regarding the role of defence lawyers, in particular.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first term in my role as Director of Advocacy and Public Relations and am looking forward to my second term. As always, I can be reached at Phillips Aiello by email: wmartinwhite@palaw.law and by telephone: 204-949-7711. Please feel free to call about any issues or thoughts that the MBA could improve upon or if you like what we are doing. Compliments go a long way.

Finally, it goes without saying that the MBA could not do what it does without the staff and volunteers who are the lifeblood of the organization. For an organization that does so much, I am always astounded that working behind the scenes we have a very small staff. It is amazing what Michelle Falk, Chelsey Tait and Alex Schultz accomplish. They are not only talented and resourceful, but they are also incredible people and we are blessed to have them lead our organization to keep us all on track with our strategic goals for the betterment of our profession.

I will leave you with Margaret Mead's famous quote: *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has"*. If you are not a member, think about joining our organization. If you are a member and want to get more involved, reach out. There is much to do.

With gratitude,
Wendy Martin White, K.C.

EQUITY MEMBER-AT-LARGE REPORT

This year has been both eventful and rewarding as I have worked to define the role of Equity Member-at-Large. I am pleased to see that this position offers significant opportunities to clarify its responsibilities and ensure our profession is reflective of same.

On November 27, 2024, I attended mentorship mixer hosted at TDS. December 5, 2025 I also attended the Law Society Holiday reception.

On November 28, 2024, I attended the Fall Mixer organized by the Equality Section for Indigenous and racialized Lawyers, and all lawyers who support equity in the profession. It was an opportunity for me to meet other racialized lawyers outside the ITL section and share stories. I invited non-members to join the MBA.

On February 3, 2025, I attended the Sankofa lecture at the Law Society of Manitoba. Dr. Adelle Blackett was the guest speaker. The turnout was very impressive. I also joined some members of the Equality Section and CABL Network for dinner with Dr. Blackett.

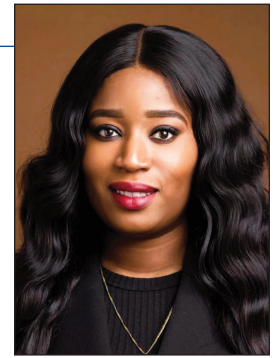
In response to the incident that occurred during the Mid-Winter relating to someone from the audience making a racist comment, the Executives met, and a statement was published on January 27, 2025 to address our members on how inconsistent such comments were with the values of the MBA. We also reassured our members

on how the MBA continues to strive to ensure EDI is maintained in the legal profession. We have also worked on a new policy addressing the incident, and to serve as a guide if such occurs again in the future. On presenting same to Council members, some suggestions were made with respect to the wording. We adopted same and the policy was revised to reflect those suggestions.

On April 16, 2025, I attended the Internationally-Trained Lawyers' Section Mixer. The turnout was very impressive. On May 1, 2025, I attended the Mixer for racialized and Indigenous lawyers. On May 9, 2025, I also attended the judicial swearing in of Justice Johnson and Justice Monnin. Michelle and I were also invited to join the Internationally Trained Lawyers Advisory Group (ITLAG) and we held our first meeting on June 3, 2025.

I wish to express my gratitude to the MBA staff and the Executive Committee members for their valuable support in helping to define and uphold the standards of this role within our profession. I anticipate another year of continued collaboration and progress.

Respectfully submitted,
Chidera Anadi-Mbanefo



Chidera Anadi-Mbanefo

CBA BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

I am happy to provide my report as your 2024-2025 CBA Board Representative. This was a big year at the national level given it was the first full year with our new CEO, Steve Levitt. Steve brought with him an eager desire to bring stability and calm to the front office. He's a genuinely nice and engaged leader and the CBA did well to get him. He's approachable and happy to hear concerns or ideas from anyone. He made a point of attending the Council meeting at our Mid-Winter Conference and planned to make an in-person appearance at every branch.

When one thinks of an organisation's annual general meeting, one might think of rote platitudes and back-slapping. This year's AGM was much more than that and exposed the need for some reform to the resolution process. The resolution part of the agenda went overtime and tested our processes and grasp of Robert's Rules. The Board acted and updated the process for bringing and debating resolutions. We should not be afraid to deal with tough or controversial questions, but we plainly needed changes to ensure that those questions can be presented and debated fairly.

Membership and finances are stable, and the CBA is well-positioned with Bianca Kratt, K.C., and Loreley Chekay, K.C. as our next Presidents. President Lynne Vicars spoke frequently about the need to protect and encourage respect for the rule of law. The CBA was nimble and able to adjust its focus once the contretemps in the US raised its ugly orange head. The Rule of

Law is under attack, and Canada is not immune. We need a strong, united voice. The CBA is perfectly situated to respond to just this kind of challenge. It is only able to do so because of its members, volunteers, and more than capable staff. I have spent decades volunteering with the MBA and CBA. I have received far more than I have put in, and I am not alone in this experience.

I'm grateful for the time I spent on the Board and was happy to represent Manitoba. John Stefaniuk, K.C., left large shoes for me to fill. I have wee feet, and I take great comfort knowing Ian Scarth's big feet will more than fill my shoes as he takes over as Manitoba's representative, and chair of the Finance Committee. I'll finish with my thanks to our local Council, Jessica Schofield's amazing leadership and Executive Committee, and our incomparable staff. Manitoba has long punched way above our weight. We do this with the depth and strength of our volunteers, and with incredible staff. The MBA is lucky to have Michelle Falk and her crew. They work hard and make volunteering easy. My endless thanks to them.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Mandzuik, K.C.



Ken Mandzuik, K.C.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

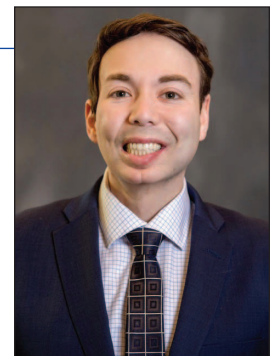
During the 2024-2025 year, it was my absolute pleasure to serve as the immediate Past President of the Manitoba Bar Association. I would like to congratulate the MBA Executive Committee, Council, Staff, and volunteers on a successful year. Thank you to Jessica Schofield for your incredible leadership as President over the past year, and to the rest of the MBA Executive Committee for your very hard work, including Stacey Soldier, Robert Pellizzaro, Bryton Moen, Wendy Martin White, K.C., Chidera Anadi-Mbanefo, and Ken Mandzuik, K.C. A special thank you to Michelle Falk, Chelsey Tait, and Alexander Schultz, for your dedication to ensuring that, year after year, the MBA remains a model organization which continues to be effective in promoting, supporting, and advancing the interests of our members.

In the past year, I had the opportunity to participate in a couple of projects which were established during my year as President. In April and August 2025, I chaired the first two meetings of the Joint Committee on the Study of Artificial Intelligence in the Manitoba Legal Profession. It is my hope that this committee will serve as a valuable resource in the ongoing discussions and studies of this rapidly evolving technology. I also served as supervisor of

the MBA's new Pro Bono Students Canada project, in which a group of Robson Hall law students will annually produce summaries of new and amended legislation and regulations for monthly editions of *Headnotes & Footnotes*. I really enjoyed working with our group of students in the past year, and I look forward to supervising this year's volunteers!

My year as Past President also included chairing bimonthly meetings with the Managing Partners of our MBA Universal Firm Partners. Thank you to the Managing Partners whom I met with over the past year for your leadership in our legal community. I really enjoyed the discussions which we had over the past year.

While my time on the MBA Executive has come to an end, I remain committed to participating in activities aligned with the MBA's mandate and look forward to volunteering with many of you in the future.



Jason Gisser

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Michelle Falk

This year has been one of meaningful momentum and new opportunities, shaped by the rapid evolution of our profession as new technologies transform how we work, and by the challenges that continue to test our collective resolve to defend the rule of law. As the 2024–2025 membership year came to a close, the MBA stands strong with 1,618 members and remains a steady anchor for lawyers across Manitoba.

It has been a true privilege to work alongside the MBA's dedicated staff and volunteers. My heartfelt thanks go to our exceptional team, Chelsey Tait, Alex Schultz, and Catherine Acebo, whose professionalism, energy, and unwavering commitment ensure we are ready to lead when the moment demands it.

I am equally grateful for the collaboration and guidance of the MBA Executive Committee. To the 2024–2025 Executive Committee members, Jessica Schofield, Stacey Soldier, Robert Pellizzaro, Bryton Moen, Jason Gisser, Chidera Anadi-Mbanefo, and Ken Mandzuik, K.C., thank you for your steadfast leadership and for helping position the MBA to meet the existential issues facing our profession with clarity, purpose, and resolve. Together, we are building the leadership our community needs for the road ahead.

The following is a list of the activities undertaken by the MBA in 2024/2025 under the four strategic pillars included in the Manitoba Bar Association's 2025–2029 Strategic Priorities.

Advancing Professional Excellence

We will provide innovative professional development opportunities to help our members excel in their careers.

- Regular meetings with the managing partners of MBA Universal Firms (firms with 10 or more lawyers with 95% CBA members) continued in 2024/2025.
- 561 copies of the 2025 Legal Directory and 278 copies of the Legal Directory & Day Planner were sold.
- For the 2025 Legal Directory, we developed a new digital directory, which featured a searchable table of contents. We sold 19 copies of the digital directory.
- The 2025 MBA Mid-Winter Conference was held on January 23–24, 2025. The conference featured 12 continuing professional development (CPD) sessions, which provided over 30 hours of CPD, including 2 hours of EPPM, and an Awards Ceremony. The MBA was pleased to receive sponsorship from the following supporters: Lawyers' Financial, Taylor McCaffrey LLP, Teranet Manitoba, Stewart Title, Lawyer Done Deal, Tapper Cuddy LLP, and Red River Group. 347 people attended the CPD sessions. In lieu of providing speaker gifts to presenters and moderators, a donation was made to the Legal Help Centre, which was selected as the 2025 conference charity.
- In 2024–2025, over 4,400 members attended 85 Section meetings (including one business meeting and 21 networking events) that provided 120 hours of CPD (including 20.5 EPPM hours). As always, registration is included in membership fees.

- The MBA continues to offer members the ability to join Sections online. There is no cost to join any of the 38 MBA Sections.
- The MBA also promoted other CBA, Law Society of Manitoba, and Robson Hall CPD programs.
- The MBA Family Law Section and Legal Aid Manitoba jointly hosted a full-day conference.
- Ten editions of *Headnotes & Footnotes* were prepared and distributed.
- The 2024/2025 mentorship program matched 86 law students with lawyer mentors and held two networking events. Thank you to the 2024/2025 MLSA Representative, Marianna Pozdirca, for a job well done!
- The MBA and the Law Society co-hosted a Champagne Welcome Reception for 1L students in September 2024.
- A networking event was held for articling students.
- The MBA President spoke at the Call to the Bar ceremony in June 2025.
- MBA Past-Presidents met to make a recommendation regarding the Distinguished Service Award recipient and discuss other matters.
- Royal MTC and MBA presented *The Man Who Came to Dinner* from May 7–10, 2025. Representatives of the MBA brought remarks before each performance, and we assisted in promotions on the MBA's social media and emails to members.
- A new Joint Committee on the Study of AI in the Legal Profession was established, including members of the judiciary, private firms, students, and Robson Hall faculty.
- A new website was launched, including a new job board to more effectively direct members to career opportunities.
- The Robson Hall/MBA Curling Bonspiel was held on March 21, 2025. Although the MBA Rocks! Team finished in 10th place, we had a lot of fun!

Enhancing Equity and Accessibility

We commit to making our programs accessible and inclusive to all members, ensuring no one is left behind.

- The MBA continued to reach out to members through social media channels Instagram and LinkedIn.
- The MBA Internationally-Trained Lawyers' Section and the Law Society of Manitoba jointly held a networking event for internationally-trained lawyers and NCA candidates in April 2025.
- The MBA Equity Section, the Law Society of Manitoba, and CABL-MB jointly hosted the Sankofa Lectures in honour of Black History Month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *cont'd*

- The SOGIC Section, in partnership with the Law Society of Manitoba, held a Pride networking event.
- The MBA Equity Section held a National Indigenous People's Day Talent Showcase and Fundraiser.

Strengthening Effective Advocacy

We will strengthen our advocacy efforts to support the legal profession and ensure justice and equality for all.

- Representatives from the MBA met with the Attorney General and Minister of Justice for Manitoba.
- Representatives from the MBA also met with the Justice Critic.
- The MBA Legislation and Law Reform Committee reviews legislation introduced and forwards it to Section representatives for their information and possible comments.
- We partnered with the PBSC student program to work with students to monitor legislative changes and regulatory updates and draft articles published in Headnotes & Footnotes. Thank you to Jason Gisser for acting as the Lawyer Supervisor for this project.
- Representatives from the MBA participated in Legal Aid Advisory Committee meetings.
- The MBA President, or their representative, participates on the Provincial Court Judicial Nominating Selection Committee. The MBA also has a representative on the Federal Judicial Advisory Committee and the Judicial Inquiry Board.
- Responded to media inquiries.
- The MBA participated in Access to Justice Week.
- Representatives of the MBA attended the Access to Justice Forum at Robson Hall.

Fostering Member Wellness

The well-being of our members is a top priority, and we will provide the necessary support and resources to promote a healthy work-life balance.

- The MBA continues to partner with the Law Society of Manitoba on the Law(yer) Strong wellness program.

Organizational Infrastructure

- Council and Executive Committee orientation sessions were held.
- Thank you letters were sent to MBA volunteers.
- All MBA staff receive yearly written performance reviews.
- Staff is encouraged to take professional development.
- An audit was conducted, and no concerns were identified.
- I participated in bi-weekly video conference meetings of the CBA Management Team, and meetings of the CBA Leadership Forum. I also attend CBA Board of Directors meetings and the CBA Annual General Meeting as an observer.
- I attended an in-person Leadership Forum in Ottawa with the MBA President and Manitoba CBA Representative in June 2025.
- In June 2025, MBA Council approved a new Safe and Respectful Engagement Policy to provide guidance to members on upholding an inclusive and respectful professional environment at MBA-hosted events.
- A 2025-2029 Strategic Action Plan was approved in alignment with the 5-year strategic plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Falk

SECRETARY / TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached are the Financial Statements of the Manitoba Bar Association for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2025, prepared by MNP.

The MBA continues to have a strong balance sheet, with significant assets: \$568,407.00 at the end of the year. In 2024-2025, we generated a net revenue of \$49,542, due to increased revenues over the previous year, combined with decreased expenses due to successful cost-saving measures such as transitioning *Headnotes & Footnotes* to a digital-only publication

and reducing expenses related to the Mid-Winter Conference.

Finally, I thank the MBA staff and fellow Executive Committee members for all your support throughout the year. It has been, and continues to be, a pleasure working with each of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryton Moen



Bryton Moen

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, 2025, and the statements of operations, 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, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

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 the 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.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The annual report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

When we read the annual report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

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 Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, 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

August 31, 2025

The logo for MNP LLP, featuring the letters 'MNP' in a large, bold, black serif font, followed by 'LLP' in a smaller, black sans-serif font.

MNP LLP, 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 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 37,873	\$ 85,972
Short-term investments (Note 3)	243,748	194,1079
Accounts receivable	12,054	9,954
Goods and services tax recoverable	3,122	2,478
Prepaid expenses	<u>56,081</u>	<u>23,498</u>
	\$352,878	\$316,009
INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	214,420	145,320
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	<u>1,109</u>	<u>1,991</u>
	\$568,407	\$463,320
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accruals	28,129	\$15,223
Deferred revenue	<u>50,107</u>	<u>4,931</u>
	\$78,236	\$20,154
NET ASSETS		
General Fund	489,062	441,175
Capital Fund	<u>1,109</u>	<u>1,991</u>
	\$490,171	\$443,166
	\$568,407	\$463,320

Statement of Operations Year Ended 31 August 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
REVENUE		
Professional Community	\$62,911	\$58,094
Professional Development - Sections	28,723	25,992
Professional Development - Other	158,782	163,794
Operational Infrastructure	<u>403,233</u>	<u>378,926</u>
	653,649	\$626,806
EXPENSES		
Governance	43,733	53,196
Professional Community	87,308	87,351
Professional Development	123,568	167,008
Prepare for the Future	750	750
Operational Infrastructure	<u>348,748</u>	<u>355,575</u>
	604,107	663,880
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	49,542	(37,074)
CAPITAL FUND		
Amoritization	<u>(2,537)</u>	<u>(3,909)</u>
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$47,005	\$(40,983)

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended 31 August 2025**

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL FUND	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$441,175	\$1,991	443,166	\$484,149
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	49,542	(2,537)	47,005	(40,983)
Purchase of capital assets	(1,655)	1,655	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$489,062	\$1,991	\$490,171	\$443,166

**Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended 31 August 2025**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR) THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES		
OPERATING		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	47,005	(40,983)
Amortization	2,537	3,909
Unrealized investment loss	(11,788)	(22,267)
	37,754	(59,341)
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accounts receivable	(2,100)	(4,963)
Goods and Services Tax receivable	(644)	252
Prepaid expenses	(32,583)	13,471
Accounts payable and accruals	12,906	(7,440)
Deferred revenue	45,176	3,257
	60,509	(54,764)
INVESTING		
Purchase of capital assets	(1,655)	(1,611)
Purchase of short-term investments	(106,953)	-
	(108,608)	(1,611)
DECREASE IN CASH	(48,099)	(56,375)
Cash - Beginning of Year	85,972	142,347
CASH END OF YEAR	\$37,873	\$85,972

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended August 31, 2025

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Manitoba Bar Association (the “Association”), a branch of The Canadian Bar Association, is a not-for-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 1,607 members of Manitoba's legal profession including: lawyers, judges, law students and law professors.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations set out in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook - Accounting, as issued by the Accounting Standards Board in Canada, which are part of Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and include the following significant accounting policies:

Cash

Cash includes balances with banks and short-term investments with maturities of three months or less. Cash subject to restrictions that prevent its use for current purposes is included in restricted cash.

Capital assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably determined. Fair value is determined based on market rates and the date of contribution for similar goods and services.

Amortization is provided using the straight-line method at rates intended to amortize the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives:

Computer equipment	3 years
Furniture and fixtures	5 years

Investments

Investments are portfolio investments recorded at fair value for those with prices quoted in an active market, and cost less impairment for those that are not quoted in an active market. Some have been classified as short-term assets in concurrence with the nature of the investment.

Long-lived assets

Long-lived assets consist of capital assets with finite useful lives. Long-lived assets held for use are measured and amortized as described in the applicable accounting policies.

When the Association determines that a long-lived asset no longer has any long-term service potential to the Association, the excess of its net carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense in the statement of operations.

Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Seminar fees are recognized as revenue when the seminars are held.

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 (use of estimates)

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 amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary. Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenues over expenses in the period in which they become known.

Financial instruments

The Association recognizes financial instruments when the Association becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Arm's length financial instruments

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction (“arm's length financial instruments”) are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Association may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Association has not made such an election during the year.

The Association subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments, except those designated in a qualifying hedging relationship or that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Investments in equity instruments not quoted in an active market and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured at cost less impairment. With the exception of financial liabilities indexed to a measure of the Association's performance or value of its equity and those instruments designated at fair value, all other financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

Financial asset impairment

The Association assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Association groups assets for impairment testing when available information is not sufficient to permit identification of each individually impaired financial asset in the group. Management considers whether the issuer is having significant financial difficulty in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. When there is an indication of impairment, the Association determines whether it has resulted in a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows during the year.

With the exception of related party debt instruments and related party equity instruments initially measured at cost, the Association reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses.

The Association reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.

Customer's accounting for cloud computing arrangement

The Association has applied the simplification approach to account for expenditures in a cloud computing arrangement. Under the simplification approach, the Association recognizes expenditures related to the elements in the cloud computing arrangement as an expense as incurred. In the current year, expenses of \$3,952 have been recognized as salaries and benefits, interest and bank charges, utilities, and professional fees expenses.

3. INVESTMENTS	2025	2024
Short-term investments:		
Guaranteed Investment Certificate matured during the year	-	57,964
Guaranteed Investment Certificate with an interest rate of 3.60% (2024 - 5.50%), maturing March 2026	1,342	1,288
Guaranteed Investment Certificate with an interest rate of 2.25%, maturing June 2026	107,467	-
Guaranteed Investment Certificate with an interest rate of 3.50% (2024 - 4.75%), maturing February 2027	22,386	21,511
Guaranteed Investment Certificate with an interest rate of 3.10% (2024 - 5.35%), maturing July 2027	112,553	113,344
	243,748	\$194,108
Long-term investments:		
Mutual funds	153,875	\$145,319
Long Term Non-Redeemable GIC with an interest rate of 3.30%, maturing July 2030	60,546	-
	214,421	145,320

4. CAPITAL ASSETS		2025	2024
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
Computer equipment	28,168	27,059	1,109
Furniture and fixtures	20,581	20,581	1,991
	\$48,749	\$47,640	\$1,991
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
Computer equipment	26,513	26,513	-
Furniture and fixtures	20,580	18,589	1,991
	\$47,093	\$45,102	\$1,991

5. COMMITMENTS

The Association has entered into an operating lease agreement expiring October 31, 2033 with estimated minimum annual payments as follows:

2026	50,154
2027	53,216
2028	53,338
2029	53,338
2030	54,804
	\$264,850

6. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Association, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. Changes in market interest rates may have an effect on the cash flows associated with some financial assets and liabilities, known as cash flow risk, and on the fair value of other financial assets and liabilities, known as price risk.

The Association is exposed to interest rate risk, as investments fluctuate with market rates of interest; however the risk is mitigated by the fact that the Association invests primarily in fixed income securities.

Section Chairs 2024-2025

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 2024/2025.

Aboriginal Law (145; 3)

Danielle Morrison, Co-Chair

Genevieve Benoit, Co-Chair

Administrative Law (216; 1)

Melanie Wire, Chair

Alternative Dispute Resolution (205; 3)

Kasia Kieloch, Chair

Animal Law (61; 2)

Elizabeth McCandless, Chair

Business Law (297; 2)

Donn Pirie, Co-Chair

Shantel Saliga, Co-Chair

CCCA (Canadian Corporate Counsel Association) (295; 6)

Cory Shangreux, Chair

Child & Youth Law (116; 3)

Riley Nolan, Co-Chair

Wendy Martin White, K.C., Co-Chair

Civil Litigation (300; 2)

Danielle Barchyn, Chair

Constitutional/Human Rights (178; 0)

Bryton Moen, Chair

Construction & Infrastructure Law (141; 0)

Bailey Harris, Chair* (until April 2025)

Michael Weinstein, Chair* (as of May 2025)

Criminal Justice (132; 5)

Bryton Moen, Co-Chair

Wendy Martin White, K.C., Co-Chair

Elder Law (93; 1)

Krista Clendenning, Chair

Entertainment, Media and Communications Law (102; 0)

Robert Sokalski, Chair

Environmental, Energy and Resources Law (95; 2)

Nigel Thompson, Chair

Equality (141; 5)

Laurelle Harris, Chair* (until February, 2025)

Janell Jackson, Co-Chair (as of February, 2025)

Shelby Sinclair, Co-Chair (as of February, 2025)

Family Law (237; 10)

Reannah Hocken, Chair

French Speaking Common Law Members (59; 0)

Vacant

Health Law (114; 0)

John Martens, Chair

Immigration Law (105; 5)

Chaobo Jiang, Chair

Indigenous Lawyers' Forum (28; 2)

Yvan Larocque, Chair

Insolvency Law (84; 1)

Charles Roy, Co-Chair

Anjali Sandhu, Co-Chair

International Law (81; 0)

Silas Koulack, Contact

Internationally Trained Lawyers' (34; 4)

Chidera Anadi-Mbanefo, Co-Chair

Ayodeji Olunlade, Co-Chair

Labour & Employment Law (220; 6)

Dany Théberge, Chair

Law Practice Management (217; 0)

Vacant

Legal Research (200; 6)

Debra Danco, Co-Chair

Steve Falkingham, Co-Chair

Municipal Law (106; 0)

Sherry Brown, Co-Chair

Diana King, Co-Chair

Public Sector Lawyers' (95; 2)

Danielle Dubois, Chair

Real Property (267; 1)

Jason Bryk, K.C., Chair

Securities Law (107; 1)

Don MacDonald, Chair

SOGIC Manitoba (57; 2)

Lou Lamari, Co-Chair

Madison Parker, Co-Chair

Small, Solo and General Practice (144; 0)

Brent Buss, Chair

Taxation Law (131; 1)

David Silver, Chair

Technology, Intellectual Property & Privacy Law (161; 4)

Kendall Dyck, Co-Chair

Danielle Gryzbowski, Co-Chair

Transportation Law (44; 0)

Joseph Barnsley, Chair

Wills, Estates and Trusts (277; 4)

Solange Buissé, Co-Chair (until October 2024)

Annika Friesen, Co-Chair (as of October 2024)

Charlotte McCurdy, Co-Chair

Women Lawyers' Forum (303; 4)

Rhoni Mackenzie, Co-Chair

Justice Kim Berthaudin, Judicial Co-Chair

Young Lawyers' (542; 7)

Mercedes Ayala, Chair

MBA Branch Statistics

Members	Sections
1,618	38

Section Membership
1685



2024/2025 SECTION ACTIVITY

Aboriginal Law

- September 20, 2024 Homecoming 2024: Engaging in Economic Reconciliation *(joint session with The Law Society of Manitoba and University of Manitoba Faculty of Law)*
- January 24, 2025 Mid-Winter CPD – Aboriginal Law - Case Law Update
- March 26, 2025 Annual Building Connections Event *(joint session with Indigenous Lawyers' Forum Section, The Law Society of Manitoba and University of Manitoba Faculty of Law)*

Administrative Law

- September 16, 2024 Reforming the Manitoba Human Rights Commission *(joint session with Legislation & Law Reform Committee and Labour & Employment Law Section)*

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section

- October 10, 2024 Mediation and Restorative Justice
- January 23, 2025 Mid-Winter CPD - A Deep Dive Into Respectful Workplace Complaints: Informal Resolution and Mediation *(joint session with Labour & Employment Law Section)*
- February 26, 2025 ADR Institute of Canada new Arbitration Rules *(joint session with Civil Litigation Section)*

Animal Law

- September 23, 2024 Fighting over Fido - The intricacies of pet custody in family and civil law - views from across Canada *(joint session with CBA-BC/CBA PEI)*
- June 17, 2025 Municipal Law as a Key Tool for Advancing Animal Welfare

Business Law

- October 28, 2024 Private Equity Funds *(joint session with CCCA Section and Securities Law Section)*

CCCA (Canadian Corporate Counsel Association)

- October 28, 2024 Private Equity Funds *(joint session with Business Law Section and Securities Law Section)*
- December 12, 2024 Practical post-Covid business issues for in-house counsel *(joint session with Labour & Employment Law Section)*
- February 6, 2025 Primer for Corporate Meetings
- February 27, 2025 MBA CCCA Section & Young Lawyers' Section Networking Event *(joint session with Young Lawyers' Section)*
- March 26, 2025 Navigating the New Era of Trade: Understanding the Impact of Recent Tariffs on Canadian and U.S. Businesses
- April 17, 2025 Caselaw Update: Labour and Employment Law counsel *(joint session with Labour & Employment Law Section)*

Child & Youth Law

- November 22, 2024 Discussion on SCC Hearing of R v. IM and R v. SB *(joint session with Family Law Section and Community Legal Education Association)*
- January 24, 2025 Mid-Winter CPD – Online Harms

March 5, 2025

Intimate Partner Violence: Lawyers' Professional Obligations *(joint session with Family Law Section and Community Legal Education Association)*

Civil Litigation

- January 24, 2025 Mid-Winter CPD – Notable Cases for Civil Litigators 2023-2024
- February 26, 2025 ADR Institute of Canada new Arbitration Rules *(joint session with ADR Section)*

Criminal Justice

- October 30, 2024 Victim Impact and Community Impact Statements *(joint session with the Law Society of Manitoba and the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law)*
- January 19, 2024 Mid-Winter CPD – Bill C-40
- February 26, 2025 Appeal Procedure 101
- February 27, 2025 Criminal Law Student Mixer at Robson Hall
- June 10, 2025 Welcome to the Practice of Criminal Law

Elder Law

- May 28, 2025 Assisting Clients in Vulnerable Situations

Equality

- November 28, 2024 Fall Mixer for Indigenous, Black and Racialized Lawyers
- January 23, 2025 Mid-Winter CPD - Equitable Hiring Practices in the Legal Profession *(joint session with Internationally Trained Lawyers' Section)*
- February 3, 2025 Sankofa Lecture in Honour of Black History Month
- May 1, 2025 Networking Mixer for Indigenous and Racialized Lawyer
- June 18, 2025 National Indigenous People's Day Event

Family Law

- September 19, 2024 Standard Clauses Version 7- Updates and Tips for Drafting Orders
- October 22, 2024 Understanding Manitoba's CFS Act and proceedings and its implications for Family Division proceedings
- December 5, 2024 The MBA Family Law Section Annual Holiday Party
- January 23, 2025 Mid-Winter CPD – Family Law Year in Review – Part I
- January 23, 2025 Mid-Winter CPD – Family Law Year in Review – Part II
- March 7, 2025 Navigating a Family Law Litigation File from Start to Finish *(joint session with Legal Aid Manitoba)*
- April 23, 2025 Occupation Rent: *Legal Principles, Practical Applications, and Litigation Strategies*
- May 27, 2025 FOAEA Forms and Process 101 *(Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act)*
- June 11, 2025 Family Law Section Summer BBQ
- June 25, 2025 Till Death Do Us Part: What Family Lawyers Need to Know When a Client Passes Away



2024/2025 SECTION ACTIVITY

Immigration Law

October 16, 2024	Roundtable Q & A Period with Immigration & Refugee Lawyers in our Section / Immigration and Skills Alignment Committee Interim Report Discussions
December 9, 2024	A Meeting with Minister Marcelino
April 29, 2025	Media Training for Lawyers
June 11, 2025	Update from CBSA Enforcement
August 19, 2025	Law & Borders Mix & Mingle!

Indigenous Lawyers'

November 21, 2024	In Good Relations
March 26, 2025	Annual Building Connections Event (<i>joint session with Young Lawyers' Section, The Law Society of Manitoba and University of Manitoba Faculty of Law</i>)

Insolvency Law

May 12, 2025	Escape Room and Drinks with MAIRP
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Internationally Trained Lawyers'

October 28, 2024	Supporting the Work: How New Lawyers Are Being Trained to Overcome A2J Barriers (<i>joint session with Young Lawyers' Section, The Law Society of Manitoba and University of Manitoba Faculty of Law</i>)
November 14, 2024	Introducing U of M's Internationally Trained Lawyer Program
January 23, 2025	Mid-Winter CPD - Equitable Hiring Practices in the Legal Profession (<i>joint session with Equality Section</i>)
April 16, 2025	Internationally Trained Lawyers' Section Mixer

Labour & Employment Law

September 13, 2024	Leveraging Generative AI in the Workplace: Policies, Processes, and Preparedness (<i>joint session with Technology & IP Law Section</i>)
September 16, 2024	Reforming the Manitoba Human Rights Commission (<i>joint session with Legislation & Law Reform Committee and Administrative Law Section</i>)
December 12, 2024	Practical post-Covid business issues for in-house counsel (<i>joint session with CCCA Section</i>)
January 23, 2025	Mid-Winter CPD - A Deep Dive Into Respectful Workplace Complaints: Informal Resolution and Mediation (<i>joint session with ADR Section</i>)
January 31, 2025	Labour and Employment Law 101 Panel
April 17, 2025	Caselaw Update: Labour and Employment Law counsel (<i>joint session with CCCA Section</i>)
May 15, 2025	Wrongful Terminations: Negotiations & Pre-Trial Considerations, Part 1

Legal Research

November 4, 2024	Careers in Legal Research and the LLM program at UM Law (<i>joint session with University of Manitoba Faculty of Law</i>)
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November 25, 2024	The New Canadian Open Access Legal Citation Guide
December 12, 2024	Annual Holiday Party
March 12, 2025	Research in Manitoba's Legal Community: Lightning Talks 2025
May 21, 2025	Legal Research Bootcamp – Legal Research Skills (<i>joint session with the Law Society of Manitoba</i>)
May 22, 2025	Legal Research Bootcamp – Legal Writing Skills (<i>joint session with the Law Society of Manitoba</i>)

Public Sector Lawyers

November 27, 2024	Volunteer Opportunity & Clothing Drive: Coats for Kids
January 23, 2025	Mid-Winter CPD – The Media, Misinformation and the Law

Real Property

January 24, 2025	Mid-Winter CPD – Registering Plans of Subdivisions
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Securities Law

October 28, 2024	Private Equity Funds (<i>joint session with Business Law Section and CCCA Section</i>)
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SOGIC Manitoba

November 7, 2024	Joint SOGIC/OUTLaws Reception
May 29, 2025	SOGIC (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Community) and the Law Society of Manitoba Jointly sponsored Pride Reception

Taxation Law

January 23, 2025	Mid-Winter CPD – Current Issues in Tax Law
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Technology, Intellectual Property & Privacy Law

September 13, 2024	Leveraging Generative AI in the Workplace: Policies, Processes, and Preparedness (<i>joint session with Labour & Employment Law Section</i>)
April 25, 2025	World Intellectual Property Day Event
April 29, 2025	Developments in Manitoba's Intimate Image Protection Legislation
June 24, 2025	Wrap-Up Meeting

Wills, Estates and Trusts

November 28, 2024	LSM / MBA Joint Wills and Estates CPD Program Series (<i>joint session with the Law Society of Manitoba</i>)
January 24, 2025	Mid-Winter CPD – The Obligations of Will Drafting Lawyers
March 20, 2025	Trauma Awareness in Wills and Estates Practice
June 17, 2025	Electronic Documents at the Court of Appeal (<i>joint session with the Law Society of Manitoba</i>)

Women Lawyers

January 23, 2025	Mid-Winter CPD – Anti SLAPP Legislation: What is it & Does it Work?
April 15, 2025	15th Annual Spring Networking Event - Building Community & Leveraging Connection for Greater Social Impact



2024/2025 SECTION ACTIVITY

May 1, 2025	Roundtable Discussions – Growing Your Client Base & Nurturing your Network	November 26, 2024	Residential Tenancies Primer
June 17, 2025	Celebrating Success - Wine and Cheese Reception for Women Lawyers and Judges	January 24, 2025	Mid-Winter CPD – From Articling to Practice, Imposter Syndrome and Avoiding Burnout
Young Lawyers			
September 12, 2024	Small Claims Primer	February 27, 2025	MBA CCCA Section & Young Lawyers' Section Networking Event (<i>joint session with CCCA Section</i>)
October 28, 2024	Supporting the Work: How New Lawyers Are Being Trained to Overcome A2J Barriers (<i>joint session with Internationally Trained Lawyers' Section, The Law Society of Manitoba and University of Manitoba Faculty of Law</i>)	May 7, 2025	Volunteer Opportunity at Siloam Mission
		May 14, 2025	Volunteer Opportunity at Siloam Mission



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

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