

Legal Research Section Report 2023-2024

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM SEPTEMBER 2023 TO JUNE 2024

Melanie Bueckert and Steve Falkingham continued as Co-Chairs for the second year. The Executive Committee also includes Debra Danco, Heather Fast, Kasia Kieloch, Elizabeth McCandless, Maria Sabourin, and David Davis (Past Chair).

The programs held over the past year (September 2023 to May 2024) are as follows:

1. November 7, 2023 – in person CPD session – “Legislative Library Information Session”, at the Legislative Reading Room and presented by Stuart Hay, Head of Reference Services and Mirabelle Boily-Bernal (held jointly with the MBA Young Lawyers’ Section);
2. December 13, 2023 – in person event – Legal Research Section Annual Holiday Party, at Across the Board;
3. January 19, 2024 – 2024 MBA Mid-Winter CPD session – “Research Trends & Best Practices”, presented by Hannah Rosborough (Dalhousie) and Matthew Renaud (Robson Hall) and moderated by Melanie Bueckert (Manitoba Court of Appeal);
4. February 7, 2024 – virtual CPD session – “Expert Witnesses”, presented by Patricia (Trish) L. Morrison K.C., BLG (Calgary, AB) and Bruce Reynolds, Singleton Reynolds (Toronto, ON) (held jointly with the MBA Civil Litigation Section);
5. March 5, 2024 – virtual CPD session – “Accessible Websites”, presented by Emma Elliott, CanLII, and Jake Harms, Manitoba Justice (held jointly with the MBA Equality Section);
6. March 14, 2024 – in person CPD session – “Careers in Legal Research”, held at Robson Hall in coordination with the Robson Hall Careers Office, featuring a panel of Melanie Bueckert, Manitoba Court of Appeal; Steve Falkingham, Paterson GlobalFoods Inc.; Heather Fast, Natural Resources Institute; and Danielle Magnifico, Legal Help Centre; and moderated by Debra Danco, Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc.; and
7. May 7, 2024 – virtual CPD session – “Plain Language Drafting”, presented by Christina Wasyliw, Manitoba Justice – Legislative Counsel.

In June we also have the following CPD session planned:

1. June 10, 2024 – in person CPD session – “Manitoba Law Library: Beyond loose-leafs and databases”, presented by Karen Sawatzky and Linda Fontaine, Law Society of Manitoba.

In addition to the CPD sessions and events, the MBA Legal Research Section's monthly e-newsletter “Law and Library Monthly” is in its seventeenth year of publication and continues to be distributed to section members. This year, the newsletter has had eight issues (September 2023 to April 2024) and featured contributions from seven individuals. Another two issues are planned for May and June. Steve Falkingham serves at the editor-in-chief.

Submitted by

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Steve Falkingham, Co-Chair, MBA Legal Research Section