

# 2024

## 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 2023-2024

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President ..... Jason Gisser  
Vice-President ..... Jessica Schofield  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... Bryton Moen  
Director of Membership ..... Robert Pellizzaro  
Director of Advocacy and Public Relations ..... Stacey Soldier

Past President ..... Tanya Keller  
Equity Member-at-Large ..... Zilla Jones  
CBA Board Representative ..... Ken Mandzuik, K.C.  
Executive Director ..... Michelle Falk

## Elected Council 2023-2024

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### **WINNIPEG JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Michael Badejo  
Natasha Brown  
Jason Bryk, K.C.  
Silvia de Sousa  
Darrin Davis  
Sadira Garfinkel  
Jason Gisser \*  
Tanya Keller \*  
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**

Katherine Jones  
Jill Giesbrecht

### **NORTHERN JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Robert Pellizzaro \*

### **MLSA Representative**

Carson Ransom

### **Articling Student Representative**

Brayden Gray

*\* Designated voting member*

### **STAFF**

*Executive Director* – Michelle Falk  
*Section Coordinator* – Chelsey Tait  
*Administrative Assistant* – Alexander Schultz  
*Law Student* – Meredith Harley

## 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.

### **2024 Mid-Winter Conference Committee**

Heather Wadsworth, *Co-Chair*  
Meghan Ross, *Co-Chair*  
Adriel Agpalza  
Krista Clendenning  
Anthony Foderaro  
Autumn Giles  
Sarah McEachern  
Jaime Rosin  
Katrina Scaramuzzi  
Bonnie Schmidt  
Jessica Schofield  
Abram Silver  
Megan Spencer

### **2024 Royal MTC/MBA Production Urinetown**

Andrea Bellhouse  
Jennifer Bird  
Paul Cooper  
Tasha Dreger  
Sean Gallop  
Benji Greenberg  
Caleigh Glawson  
Kate Henley  
Deanna Hiebert  
Melanie LaBossiere  
Jordan Lang  
Joel Lebois  
Jerritt Lipski  
Hayley Main  
Jennifer Malabar  
Jeff Palamar  
Victoria Perrie  
Sandi Phillips  
Jodi Plenert  
Steve Scarfone  
Reed Sitarik

### **2024 Royal MTC/MBA Joint Production Lawyers Play Committee**

Jeff Palamar, *Chair*  
Katherine Basarab  
Michelle Falk  
Caleigh Glawson  
Melissa Hazelton  
Jamie Jurczak  
Peter Kingsley, K.C.  
Justice David Kroft  
Joel Lebois  
Jim McLandress  
Stacey Solider  
Stéphanie Tétreault

### **CBA Well-Being Committee Member**

Maria Mitousis

### **Court of King's Bench & Bar Liaison Committee**

The Hon. Justice Michael Thomson, *Chairperson*

### **Federal Judicial Advisory Committee for Manitoba**

Joëlle Pastora Sala

### **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 2023-2024

## 2024 MBA Distinguished Service Award Recipient:

Garth Smorang, K.C.



## 2023 Pro Bono Award Recipients:

Kaisha Thompson, Evan Edwards, Jonathan Paterson  
Duboff Edwards Schachter Law Corporation



## 2023 MBA Access to Justice Award:

Natasha Brown



## 2023 MBA Community Involvement Award:

Aron Grusko



## 2023 MBA Equality Award:

Eli Milner



## 2023 MBA Council Member Award:

David Silver



## 2023 President's Award of Excellence:

Ian Scarth



## 2023 Grant Davis Collegiality & Well-Being Award:

Tamara McCaffrey



## 2023 Edward (Ned) Brown Headnotes & Footnotes Award:

MLT Aikins LLP



## 2023 Section Activity Award:

Small, Solo and General Practice Section,  
Brent Buss, Chair



## 2023 Isabel Ross (MacLean) Hunt Award:

Chief Justice Marianne Rivoalen





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been an absolute privilege to serve you as President of the Manitoba Bar Association for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Serving as President has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I had the opportunity to meet legal professionals from all over our province to discuss important issues and take part in events and activities which help shape the future of our profession in Manitoba. It was also my pleasure to represent Manitoba on a national level in meetings and activities with the Canadian Bar Association. As President, it is my honour to present you with the MBA Annual Report for 2023-2024. I am incredibly proud of the work which the MBA has done this past year and would like to take a moment to reflect back on the progress of our Association over the past year.

## Membership

Our membership remains very strong, with over 1600 active members and universal membership for law students. This year, we also welcomed two new MBA Universal Firm Partners, which are Manitoba firms with ten or more lawyers of whom 95% or more are MBA members. Welcome to Tapper Cuddy LLP and Wolseley Law LLP, and thank you to all members and Firm Partners for your ongoing commitment to our association.

## Advocacy and Representation

Access to Justice was a big focus in the MBA's advocacy efforts this past year. During the provincial election campaign in September 2023, the MBA launched an Access to Justice platform and posed questions to each political party as to its commitment towards improving access to justice. We followed up that campaign with discussions with several key legal community stakeholders, the media, and with the Provincial Government, the Official Opposition, and the Manitoba Liberal Party on the topic of appropriate funding and staffing of the justice system.

## Professional Development and Education

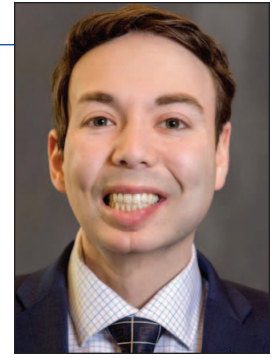
CPD offerings remain the focal point of the MBA's activity. I am in awe of the work of our 38 Section Chairs and Executives who produced countless hours of CPDs watched by thousands of attendees. A common theme which emerged from our strategic planning process this year is how valued professional development opportunities are to our members and to legal community stakeholders. Our member volunteers ensure that the MBA continues to be a leader in continuing legal education.

## Financial Report

Our association maintains sound financial health. A detailed audited financial report for the fiscal year 2023-2024 has been prepared and is attached herein. Our auditors, MNP LLP, had no concerns with our finances or accounting practices.

## Looking Towards the Future

The MBA has taken several steps this year to prepare itself for the future. This past February, we began an extensive strategic planning consultation process, which included several interviews with leaders of key stakeholders in the legal community, a member survey, a town hall meeting with Western District lawyers, firm interviews, and a discussion with Managing Partners of MBA Universal Firms. It concluded with a strategic planning session with our MBA Branch Council, facilitated by our hired consultant. The strategic planning report, approved by our Branch Council in September 2024, is now available to review. It identifies priorities for the next five years of the MBA, including advancing professional excellence; enhancing equity, accessibility, and inclusion; fostering member wellness, and strengthening effective advocacy.



Jason Gisser

In addition to the strategic planning process, the MBA has modernized its operations by making *Headnotes & Footnotes* an exclusively digital publication, and now offer a digital version of the Legal Directory. We are also happy to announce that the 2026 and 2027 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the RBC Convention Centre. Finally, this past June, the MBA approved Terms of Reference for the development of a new Joint Committee to study Artificial Intelligence in the Manitoba Legal Profession.

## Mental Health and Wellness

This past year, the MBA made mental health and wellness a priority. We partnered with the Law Society and Law(yer) Strong Inc. to present the Summer Wellness Challenge for the Manitoba legal community. Dr. Jillian Horton was also invited to discuss burnout in the legal profession at the Mid-Winter Conference's EPPM Lunch, and Tamara McCaffrey also presented on Law(yer) Strong. I was also happy to participate on a Law(yer) Strong panel discussion for law students at Robson Hall last December. It is critical that we continue to discuss wellness in the legal profession and use the recently released Phase II of the National Study on the Psychological Health Determinants of Legal Professionals in Canada as a guide. We cannot be effective lawyers, judges, law students, law professors, and notaries if we are not physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy human beings.

## Inclusion

The MBA sought to continue its ongoing work on building inclusion in the legal community, including through our demographic-based sections. This work was highlighted by the MBA's inaugural Sankofa Lectures in February 2024, honouring Black History Month, which was a collaboration with the Manitoba Branch of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers. Over the past year, the Internationally Trained Lawyers (ITLs) Section, which was just founded in June 2023, grew significantly and held an event in April 2024 which featured a packed room of over 50 ITLs. In June 2024, the MBA Branch Council was proud to approve the establishment of the MBA's 38th Section, the Indigenous Lawyers' Forum, which will aim to facilitate social networking, mentoring, and professional development among Indigenous lawyers and law students throughout Manitoba, and celebrate Indigenous legal excellence and Indigenous culture.

## Conclusion

I want to thank the incredible team with which I have had the privilege of working. Thank you to the remarkable MBA Office led by Executive Director Michelle Falk, as well as Chelsey Tait and Alexander Schultz, the MBA Executive Committee: Jessica Schofield, Stacey Soldier, Rob Pellizzaro, Bryton Moen, Zilla Jones, Tanya Keller, and Ken Mandzuik, K.C., and the MBA Branch Council.

Finally, I would like to thank each of you. One of my favourite parts of being MBA President has been meeting with members throughout the Manitoba legal community and talking about the issues which are most important to you and your careers. It has been an honour advocating for our Association, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Jason Gisser

# VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Vice President of the MBA for 2023-2024. Going into the past year, I knew that being Vice President for Jason's President year would be a privilege and an inspiration. He accomplished so much in a short year, and his guidance and mentorship have given me the opportunity to be a better President for the MBA.

I also want to thank my fellow Executive Committee members, Michelle, the staff at the MBA office, and the MBA Council members who work hard to serve the over 1600 members of this Association. We have continued to work together to advocate for our members and are proud to partner with Robson Hall and other organizations to best serve them.

As Vice President, I had the opportunity to work with our Mid-Winter Conference Planning Committee and want to thank its members for their hard work in putting on another successful conference. A highlight of the 2024 Conference was our first female Chief Justice receiving the Isabel Ross MacLean Hunt Award.

I also attended various meetings and functions on behalf of the MBA, including the Mentorship Reception, events at Robson Hall, Jason's MBA President's Reception, the Law Society President's Reception for Gerri Wiebe, K.C. and the 40th Anniversary Symposium for the Manitoba Court of King's Bench Family Division.

I also had the pleasure of working with all of the Section Chairs. Almost all of our Sections held a CPD session or hosted an event over the course of the year and I want to thank the Section Chairs

and their fellow executive members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who serve as our Section Chairs and their executives. It would not be possible for the MBA to provide invaluable education sessions to our members without their many hours of hard work.

In addition to my duties as Vice President, which include overseeing all Sections, I again had the pleasure of Co-Chairing the Family Law Section of the MBA with Kathleen McLean and, in this capacity, have assisted in organizing CPD programs for our members, in addition to working collaboratively with the Court. I am particularly proud of the work of the MBA in putting on the joint MBA/Legal Aid Manitoba Advocacy Program. In particular, I want to thank Associate Chief Justice Hatch for her support in planning the event, as well as Justice Thomson, Justice Abel, Justice Petersen, and Lawrence Pinsky, K.C., for their time, commitment and support in putting on a successful event. We look forward to the 2nd Annual Conference scheduled for March 7, 2025.

I wish our incoming Vice President, Stacey Solider, all the best in her new role; I am lucky, as is the MBA as a whole, to have her in this important role. I look forward to working with Stacey and all the members of the Executive in my year as your President.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Jessica Schofield



*Jessica Schofield*

# ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

It has been an eventful year for me, and I look back at the amazing things that happened in our profession with pride.

On September 6, 2023, I attended the Executive Council meeting at then President Jason Gisser's home. On September 7, 2023, I was happy to be in attendance for the CBA Transfer of the Chain ceremony at the Canadian Human Rights Museum to witness John Stefaniuk, K.C. formally assumed the office of the Canadian Bar Association. He spoke about the importance of inclusion on our profession and our duty as lawyers to give back to the legal community as well as our larger community.

On September 12, 2023, I attended the MBA Equity event at Taylor McCaffrey where there was an amazing spread of Caribbean food and great conversation among the small but mighty group of lawyers dedicated to equity in our profession.

The next evening, September 13, 2023, I attended the President's Reception for Jason Gisser at The Leaf. Looking back, it was the start of a productive year for our organization with Jason at the helm.

The week capped off with another event at Taylor McCaffrey on September 14, 2023. The Celebrating Success for Women Lawyers and Judges to say hello and goodbye and congratulations to retired, appointed and elevated women Judges. There were many inspiring words spoken by the honourees and the future of the bench is looking bright.

Carrying on to the end of the month, I attended the Swearing-In Ceremony of Chief Justice Rivoalen on September 29, 2023. There was a real sense of occasion for the first female Chief Justice of the Manitoba Court of Appeal.

I represented the MBA on October 5, 2023, for an Articling Student Event held at the Law Society.

I attended an A2J Planning meeting with Laurelle Harris, K.C., Marc Kruse, and Amar Khody on October 16, 2023.

On October 26, 2023, I was on the Racial Equity, Legal Education, and Access to Justice Panel. It was very well attended, and a great discussion ensued.

The next day, October 27, 2023, I was pleased to attend the Swearing-in Ceremony for Judge David Ireland and Judge Mark Kantor. Both were very worthy and distinguished additions to the Provincial Court bench.

The SOGIC section and the Outlaws held a joint reception on Nov 6, 2023. While we as a profession have done some work to ensure everyone has a safe space to practice law and thrive, this session was a sobering reminder that there is still a very long way to go. The stories that were shared of discrimination and implicit as well as explicit bias within the law school and professional spaces should be a concern to all. I would challenge all members to self-reflect on whether they are doing everything they can to support and be an ally to all our members.

On November 15, 2023, I attended the MBA Executive Meeting. We discussed the Lawyer's Play, which is *Urinetown: The Musical*.

I was happy to attend the January 26, 2024, Swearing-in Ceremony for Judge Michelle Bright and Judge Denis Guénette and Judge Darcie Yale as well as the March 1, 2024, Swearing-in Ceremony for Justice Brian Bowman.

On March 19, 2024, I attended the Lawyer's Play Meeting, when I received an update on the rehearsals and ticket sales.

I attended another MBA Executive Meeting on March 20, 2024.

On May 7, I attended the Access to Justice Conference at Robson Hall.

I attended another MBA Executive Meeting on May 8, 2024.

On May 10, 2024, I attended *Urinetown: The Musical* and enjoyed the evening's entertainment. Lawyers are a talented bunch! I also presented cheque.

I attended a meeting with the Manitoba Liberal Party regarding Bill 209 with Jason Gisser and Michelle Falk on May 15, 2024.

I attended another MBA Executive Meeting on May 22, 2024.

To kick off Pride Month, I attended the SOGIC Pride Networking Event on May 28, 2024.

On June 27, 2024, I attended the Law Society President's Reception for Gerri Wiebe, K.C.

This was followed by the MBA Executive Dinner on July 2, 2024.

I attended a A2J Planning Meeting by Zoom on August 22, 2024. The theme for the week is *Increasing our Collective impact: Highlighting A2J Collaborations and Continued Capacity for Change*.

As part of my responsibilities as Director of Advocacy and Public Relations, I also advised on several media engagements, such as the political attacks on a candidate who is also a criminal defense lawyer. I also monitored drafts of the monthly newsletter, *Headnotes & Footnotes*. I will continue to work with the Executive and Council to respond to issues that affect our membership, including the judiciary.

Thank you to the staff for the work you did coordinating these events and for the exceptional food and snacks provided. The work you do is so important to the success of the organization. Michelle, your commitment to excellence and ensuring the MBA Executive are always prepared is very much appreciated.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Stacey Soldier



Stacey Soldier

# MEMBERSHIP/MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

It has been a privilege to serve as Director of Membership for the Manitoba Bar Association (MBA) this past year, and I am pleased to report that our membership continues to grow steadily. Today, we are proud to represent over 1600 members, which is a significant percentage of all practicing lawyers in the province—a remarkable achievement that speaks to the ongoing value our association provides to the legal community in Manitoba. Notably, we are among the few provincial organizations in Canada that are experiencing this positive trend in membership growth, reinforcing our status as a key resource for professional development, advocacy, and support.

Our success is due in no small part to the dedication of our membership and volunteer board of directors. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you, as well as to Michelle and the staff at the MBA office, for your tireless work and collaboration in fulfilling our mission. It is through this shared effort that we continue to make membership accessible, provide mentorship opportunities, and deliver high-quality resources to our members at every stage of their careers.

We have strengthened our engagement with new members, ensuring they are informed of the many benefits the MBA offers,

from Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs to advocacy efforts on behalf of the profession. Our partnership with the University of Manitoba also remains a cornerstone of our outreach, allowing law students to access MBA membership early in their careers and participate in our mentorship programs—a connection that is both rewarding and vital to the future of our profession.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to serving as a strong advocate for Manitoba's legal community and to further enhancing the support and resources available to our members. Thank you once again to my fellow Executive Committee members, our MBA staff, and the broader MBA membership for the encouragement, teamwork, and shared commitment that make our success possible.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Robert Pellizzaro



*Robert Pellizzaro*

# PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been my honour to serve as the immediate Past President of the Manitoba Bar Association (MBA) during the 2023-2024 year. Although my time with the MBA Executive has come to an end, I intend to continue volunteering and taking part in activities geared towards the MBA's mandate.

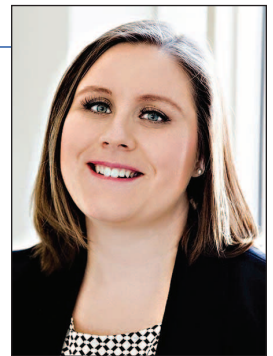
Over the past year, the MBA Executive has continued to promote, support and advance the interests of the profession by maintaining strong ties and relations with the government, the bench, the Law Society, the Faculty of Law, and, all the while pursuing changes that enhance access to justice and address systemic biases in our legal system. We have also had great discussions with our Council and managing partners to facilitate leadership, collaboration, mentorship, and teamwork.

I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the MBA Council and the MBA Executive team (Jason Gisser, Jessica

Schofield, Bryton Moen, Stacey Soldier, Zilla Jones, and John Stefaniuk, K.C.) for your steadfast commitment, teamwork, and contributions to the MBA.

The work of the MBA was made easier this year thanks to the contributions of the hardworking MBA staff and, in particular, Michelle Falk, Chelsey Tait and Alexander Schultz. They make the MBA the success it is today and will be in the future.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
Tanya M. Keller



*Tanya M. Keller*



## CBA BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

I was happy to rejoin the CBA Board of Directors since my last stint a dozen years ago. This last year was an especially good time for Manitoba, as we were fortunate to have John Stefaniuk, K.C. as CBA President. John provided great leadership in a year that saw some big changes at the CBA. The CBA's governance structure underwent the first major revision since 2016's Rethink, with new Director positions added starting September 1, 2024. Directors can sit for two, two-year terms, and directors are now selected by the Branches, as opposed to the Board itself.

I was pleased to serve on the Governance and Equality Committee, as well as on the Policy Committee. The Governance Committee looked at possible changes to Board appointments and constitution, which changes were ultimately made by resolution at the AGM. The Policy Committee continued its good work in looking at every submission the CBA makes as well as considering proposed leaves to intervene at the Supreme Court. One issue that the Board had top of mind was the proposed changes to British Columbia's Law Society. The independence of the bar remains a top priority for the CBA.

We also saw the retirement of CBA stalwart Tamra Thomson. Tamra was known as the Resolution Queen, but, more importantly, she was the CBA's Executive Director, Advocacy. In

addition to her inhuman grasp of grammar, she had expertise in crafting persuasive submissions to government backed up by decades of experience. I'm happy to call Tamra a friend, and am happier that her replacement, Yves Faguy, is ably filling her shoes.

We also saw the retirement of CEO, Johanne Bray, K.C. Johanne laid the foundation for funding certainty between the national and branch offices and did a fine job of herding the CBA cats. Her replacement is Steve Levitt, who will take over in November 2024. Johanne left the organization in good shape, and we're confident that Steve will keep up her good work.

I am looking forward to my final year on the CBA Board of Directors. The CBA is stronger for having the MBA as a branch. Neither the CBA nor the MBA could do what they do without the work of its volunteers and members. Get involved or stay involved, and you will get more out of it than you put in.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Ken Mandzuik, K.C.



*Ken Mandzuik, K.C.*

## SECRETARY / TREASURER'S REPORT

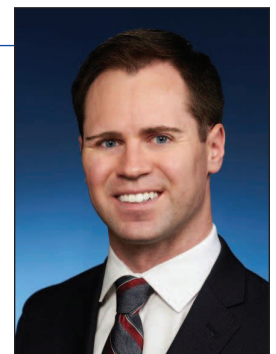
Attached are the Financial Statements of the Manitoba Bar Association for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024, prepared by MNP.

The MBA continues to have a strong balance sheet, with significant assets: \$463,320.00 at the end of the year. We did experience a deficit this year, in the amount of \$40,983.00. Although our revenues for 2024 did exceed our revenues from 2023, our expenses also rose, in large part due to continued inflation. Nevertheless, the MBA has taken several steps to try and address the deficit (for instance, by moving the location of Mid-Winter beginning in 2026, and by converting *Headnotes & Footnotes* into a digital only publication). We trust that these

changes will result in significant financial savings, hopefully eliminating the deficit going forward.

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*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following is a list of the activities undertaken by the MBA in 2023/2024 under the four strategic pillars included in the Canadian Bar Association's strategic plan:

## Meet our Members' Needs

*Understand the changing nature of our members' needs and develop innovative, world-class content, tools, training, events, and resources for the benefit of our members.*

- The MBA Executive Committee members monitor monthly membership statistics, monthly website usage, social media analytics, and email open and click-through rates.
- Regular meetings with the managing partners of CBA/MBA Universal Firms (firms with 10 or more lawyers with 95% CBA members) continued in 2023/2024.
- The 2024 MBA Mid-Winter Conference was held on January 18-19, 2024. The conference featured 16 continuing professional development (CPD) sessions, which provided over 39.5 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, Teranet Manitoba, Lawton Partners, Stewart Title, and STEP. 375 people attended the CPD sessions. In lieu of providing speaker gifts to presenters and moderators, a donation was made to Candace House, which was selected as the 2024 conference charity.
- In 2023-2024, over 4,200 members attended 89 Section meetings (including two business meetings and 20 networking events) that provided 139 hours of CPD (including 14.5 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 2023 Pitblado Lectures were held at Robson Hall. The topic was "What is AI and What Does it Mean for Your Legal Practice."
- The MBA Family Law Section and Legal Aid Manitoba jointly hosted a full-day conference.
- The MBA Equity Section and CABL-MB jointly hosted the inaugural Sankofa Lectures in honour of Black History Month.
- Ten editions of *Headnotes & Footnotes* were prepared and distributed.
- The MBA continues to partner with the Law Society of Manitoba on the Law(yer) Strong wellness program.
- The MBA partnered with Law(yer) Strong and the Law Society of Manitoba on the Summer Wellness Challenge, which ran from May 1 to the end of August 2024.
- A resolution to establish a new Indigenous Lawyers Forum Section was passed by Council.

## Expand our Membership

*Ensure the CBA is relevant to those we currently represent and want to join our Association, including by investing in the next generation of lawyers and diversifying our membership base.*

- At the end of 2023-2024, the MBA had 1607 total active members.
- Various membership recruitment and retention activities were held in 2023-2024.
- 580 copies of the 2024 Legal Directory and 425 copies of the Legal Directory & Day Planner were sold.
- The MBA continued to reach out to members through social media channels Instagram, LinkedIn, and X.
- The 2023/2024 mentorship program matched 57 law students with lawyer mentors and held two networking events. Thank you to the 2023/2024 MLSA Representative, Carson Ransom, for a job well done!
- The MBA and the Law Society co-hosted a Champagne Welcome Reception for 1L students in September 2023.
- A networking event was held for articling students.
- The MBA President spoke at the Call to the Bar ceremony in June 2024.
- MBA Past-Presidents met to make a recommendation regarding the Distinguished Service Award recipient and discuss other matters.
- Royal MTC and MBA presented *Urinetown: The Musical* from May 7-11, 2024. Representatives of the MBA brought remarks before each performance, and we assisted in promotions on the MBA's social media and emails to members.
- 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 2024.

## Promote Equality and Justice

*Defend the interest of the legal profession and promote equality and justice.*

- 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.
- Representatives from the MBA met with the Manitoba Liberal Party.
- The MBA Legislation and Law Reform Committee reviews legislation introduced and forwards it to Section representatives for their information and possible comments.
- Representatives from the MBA participated in Legal Aid Advisory Committee meetings.



Michelle Falk

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *cont'd*

- 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.
- The MBA President, or their representative, participates on the King's Counsel Advisory Council.
- Responded to media inquiries.
- The MBA participated in Access to Justice Week.
- Representatives of the MBA attended the first Access to Justice Forum at Robson Hall.
- The MBA continues to be a partner on the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord and submitted a report on our annual activities toward reconciliation.

## Enhance our Internal Cohesion

*Enhance the ability of the CBA and its entities to collaborate to sustain the CBA's mission, vision, and strategic pillars.*

- 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 Gatineau with the MBA President and Manitoba CBA Representative in June 2024.

## 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.
- With the assistance of Blueprint Inc, the MBA conducted a strategic review process toward new strategic priorities. The new strategic plan was approved by Council in September 2024. A full report can be found here: [https://www.cba-mb.ca/CBAMediaLibrary/cba\\_mb/PDFS/Who-We-Are/Policies/MBA-Strategic-Plan-2025-2029-Final-Web.pdf](https://www.cba-mb.ca/CBAMediaLibrary/cba_mb/PDFS/Who-We-Are/Policies/MBA-Strategic-Plan-2025-2029-Final-Web.pdf)
- The MBA office was moved to 1420 – 444 St Mary Ave in November 2023.

This year has been one of new and exciting opportunities, highlighted by the completion of our new strategic planning process, which sets a clear and optimistic path for the future of the MBA. It has been an absolute pleasure collaborating with the MBA's dedicated staff and volunteers. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible team—Chelsey Tait, Alex Schultz, and Meredith Harley—whose hard work and passion continue to drive our success.

Working alongside the MBA Executive Committee remains a truly rewarding experience. My deepest thanks go to the 2023-2024 Executive Committee members—Jason Gisser, Jessica Schofield, Stacey Soldier, Robert Pellizzaro, Bryton Moen, Tanya Keller, Zilla Jones, and Ken Mandzuik, K.C.—for their unwavering commitment and leadership. Together, we've laid the foundation for an inspiring future for the MBA.

## **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, 2024, 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, 2024, 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, 2024

The logo for MNP LLP, featuring the letters 'MNP' in a large, bold, black serif font, followed by 'LLP' in a smaller, black 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 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 85,972	\$142,347
Short-term investments (Note 3)	194,107	159,819
Accounts receivable	9,954	4,991
Goods and services tax recoverable	2,478	2,730
Prepaid expenses	23,498	<u>36,969</u>
	<b>316,009</b>	<b>346,8563</b>
INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	145,320	157,341
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	1,991	<u>4,289</u>
	<b>\$463,320</b>	<b>\$508,486</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals	\$15,223	\$22,663
Deferred revenue	4,931	<u>1,674</u>
	<b>\$20,154</b>	<b>\$24,337</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
General Fund	441,175	479,860
Capital Fund	<u>1,991</u>	<u>4,289</u>
	<b>\$443,166</b>	<b>484,149</b>
	<b>\$463,320</b>	<b>\$508,486</b>

## Statement of Operations Year Ended 31 August 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Professional Community	\$58,094	\$69,298
Professional Development - Sections	25,992	8,541
Professional Development - Other	163,794	171,088
Operational Infrastructure	<u>378,926</u>	<u>341,374</u>
	<b>\$626,806</b>	<b>\$590,301</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Governance	53,196	43,683
Professional Community	87,351	80,703
Professional Development	167,008	157,394
Prepare for the Future	750	—
Operational Infrastructure	355,575	<u>360,567</u>
	<b>663,880</b>	<b>642,347</b>
<b>DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(37,074)</b>	<b>(52,046)</b>
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>		
Amoritization	(3,909)	(4,087)
<b>DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$(40,983)</b>	<b>\$(56,133)</b>

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets Year Ended 31 August 2024

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL FUND	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$479,860	\$4,289	484,149	\$540,282
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(37,074)	(3,909)	(40,983)	(56,133)
Purchase of capital assets	(1,611)	1,611	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$441,175	1,991	\$443,166	\$484,149

### Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended 31 August 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR) THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES		
OPERATING		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(40,983)	(56,133)
Amortization	3,909	4,087
Unrealized investment loss	(22,267)	(10,437)
	(59,341)	\$(62,483)
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accounts receivable	(4,963)	(3,101)
Goods and Services Tax receivable	252	13
Prepaid expenses	13,471	(4,919)
Accounts payable and accruals	(7,440)	9,223
Deferred revenue	3,257	(4,416)
	(54,764)	\$(65,683)
INVESTING		
Purchase of short-term investments	-	(20,000)
Purchase of capital assets	(1,611)	-
	(1,611)	(20,000)
DECREASE IN CASH	(56,375)	(85,683)
Cash - Beginning of Year	142,347	228,030
CASH END OF YEAR	\$85,972	\$142,347

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended August 31, 2024

## 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 at the following rates:

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. They 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.

3. INVESTMENTS	2024	2023
Short-term investments:		
Guaranteed Investment Certificate with an interest rate of 5.10% (2023 - 4.50%), maturing July 2025	57,964	55,525
Guaranteed Investment Certificate with an interest rate of 5.35% (2023 - 3.75%), maturing June 2025	113,344	104,294
Guaranteed Investment Certificate with an interest rate of 5.50%, maturing January 2025	1,288	-
Guaranteed Investment Certificate with an interest rate of 4.75%, maturing February 2025	21,512	20,536
	<b>\$194,108</b>	<b>\$180,355</b>
Long-term investments:		
Mutual funds	\$145,319	\$136,805

4. CAPITAL ASSETS			2024
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
Computer equipment	26,513	26,513	-
Furniture and fixtures	20,580	18,589	1,991
	<b>\$47,093</b>	<b>\$45,102</b>	<b>\$1,991</b>
			2023
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
Computer equipment	26,513	24,843	1,670
Furniture and fixtures	18,970	16,351	2,619
	<b>\$45,483</b>	<b>\$41,194</b>	<b>\$4,289</b>

### 5. COMMITMENTS

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

2025	48,832
2026	50,154
2027	53,216
2028	53,338
2029	53,338
	<b><u>\$258,878</u></b>

### 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.

### 7. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.

## Section Chairs 2023-2024

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 2023/2024.

### Aboriginal Law (165; 2)

Jessica Barlow, Co-Chair  
Genevieve Benoit, Co-Chair

### Administrative Law (227; 2)

Melanie Wire, Chair

### Alternative Dispute Resolution (205; 1)

Kasia Kieloch, Chair

### Animal Law (61; 1)

Elizabeth McCandless, Co-Chair  
Monique St. Germain, Co-Chair

### Business Law (312; 0)

Donn Pirie, Co-Chair  
Shantel Saliga, Co-Chair

### CCCA (Canadian Corporate Counsel Association) (320; 8)

Cory Shangreux, Chair

### Child & Youth Law (121; 2)

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

### Civil Litigation (321; 4)

Andrew Sain, Chair

### Constitutional/Human Rights Law (201; 0)

Bryton Moen, Chair

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

Bailey Harris, Chair

### Criminal Justice (132; 7)

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

### Elder Law (102; 0)

Krista Clendenning, Chair

### Entertainment, Media and Communications Law (97; 0)

Robert Sokalski, Chair

### Environmental, Energy and Resources Law (101; 2)

Nigel Thompson, Chair

### Equality Issues (148; 4)

Laurelle Harris, K.C., Chair

### Family Law (256; 11)

Jessica Schofield, Co-Chair  
Kathleen McLean, Co-Chair

### French Speaking Common Law Members (59; 0)

Vacant

### Health Law (121; 0)

John Martens, Chair

### Immigration Law (108; 3)

Nalini Reddy, Chair

### Insolvency Law (92; 2)

Charles Roy, Co-Chair  
Anjali Sandhu, Co-Chair

### International Law (89; 0)

Vacant

### Labour & Employment Law (227; 4)

Dany Th  berge, Chair

### Law Practice Management (226; 0)

Vacant

### Legal Research (213; 8)

Melanie Bueckert, Co-Chair  
Steve Falkingham, Co-Chair

### Municipal Law (108; 1)

Sherry Brown, Co-Chair  
Diana King, Co-Chair

### Public Sector Lawyers' (104; 6)

Melanie Bueckert, Chair

### Real Property (288; 2)

Jason Bryk, K.C., Chair

### Securities Law (109; 0)

Don MacDonald, Chair

### SOGIC Manitoba (68; 2)

Eli Milner, Co-Chair  
Madison Parker, Co-Chair

### Small, Solo and General Practice (154; 0)

Brent Buss, Chair

### Taxation Law (133; 1)

David Silver, Chair

### Technology, Intellectual Property & Privacy Law (167; 3)

Andrew Buck, Chair

### Transportation Law (50; 0)

Joseph Barnsley, Chair

### Wills, Estates and Trusts (301; 2)

Solange Buis  , Co-Chair  
Charlotte McCurdy, Co-Chair

### Women Lawyers' Forum (329; 5)

Sadira Garfinkel, Co-Chair  
Justice Kim Berthaudin, Judicial Co-Chair

### Young Lawyers' (567; 7)

Shea Sanders, Chair

### MBA Branch Statistics

Members	Sections
1,607	37
Section Membership	
6472	



# 2023/2024 SECTION ACTIVITY

## Aboriginal Law

September 27, 2023	The Journey Forward: Moving toward Economic Reconciliation ( <i>joint session with The Law Society of Manitoba and University of Manitoba Faculty of Law</i> )
January 18, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Enforcement of Indigenous Laws

## Administrative Law

January 18, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Delay in Administrative Proceedings
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## Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section

April 4, 2023	A Conversation with Ontario Dispute Adjudication for Construction Contracts (ODACC)
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## Animal Law

April 11, 2023	Improving Manitoba Laws in Relation to Animals: Priorities for the Winnipeg Humane Society
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## CCCA (Canadian Corporate Counsel Association)

September 6, 2023	Get to Know the CCCA
September 26, 2023	Limitations of Liability in Professional Services Contracts
October 12, 2023	Building and Protecting your Brand
December 11, 2023	Ethics for In-House Counsel
January 18, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Trade Secrets: The Bid Protest Mechanism under Domestic Trade Agreements ( <i>joint session with Public Sector Lawyers' Section</i> )
February 28, 2024	Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention Policies and Investigation Procedures
March 20, 2024	Key Legislative Updates ( <i>joint session with Labour &amp; Employment Law Section</i> )
May 23, 2024	Modern Slavery: Preparing for the new federal legislation

## Child & Youth Law

November 2, 2023	Toxic masculinity and IPV session ( <i>joint session with Family Law Section and Community Legal Education Association</i> )
January 19, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – The Supreme Court Considers <i>An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families in Attorney General of Québec, et al. v. Attorney General of Canada, et al.</i>

## Civil Litigation

October 12, 2023	Small Claims Primer ( <i>joint session with the Young Lawyers' Section</i> )
January 18, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Notable Cases for Civil Litigators 2022-2023
February 7, 2024	Expert Witnesses ( <i>joint session with the Legal Research Section</i> )
April 25, 2024	The Notwithstanding Clause: Recent Developments and Debates ( <i>joint session with the Constitutional/Human Rights Law Section</i> )

## Criminal Justice

September 12, 2023	Best Practices in Custody Calls
September 14, 2023	Immigration Consequences in Sentencing
November 14, 2023	“Interrogators Often Use Honey, Not Vinegar, in Pursuit of the Truth”: The Constitutional Right to Silence and Undercover Operations in Detention
January 19, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Bill C-40
April 17, 2024	Everybody Loses – The Canadian Sexual Assault Trial
June 6, 2024	Top 10 Appellate Cases in the Last Year
June 11, 2024	Welcome to the Practice of Criminal Law

## Environmental, Energy and Resources Law

November 21, 2023	Contaminated Sites and Corporate Compliance
March 12, 2024	ELG Environmental Law Networking Event

## Equality

September 12, 2023	Fall Mixer for Indigenous and Racialized Lawyers and all lawyers who support equity in the profession
November 29, 2023	Lawyers with Disabilities Virtual Round Table
February 8, 2024	First Annual Sankofa Lecture in Honour of Black History Month
March 5, 2024	Accessible websites ( <i>joint session with the Legal Research Section</i> )

## Family Law

October 12, 2023	Tax issues in Family Law & the Role of Financial Experts in Arbitration ( <i>joint session with FAMLII</i> )
November 2, 2023	Toxic masculinity and IPV session ( <i>joint session with Child &amp; Youth Law Section and Community Legal Education Association</i> )
November 10, 2023	Navigating a Family Law Litigation File from Start to Finish ( <i>joint session with Legal Aid Manitoba</i> )
November 28, 2023	The Separation Date Assessment Guide and How to Use It
November 30, 2023	The MBA Family Law Section Annual Holiday Party
January 18, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Significant Family Law Cases in 2023
January 18, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Family Law Dispute Resolution Processes - What Works for your Clients and When?
March 7, 2024	The Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Family Maintenance
March 8, 2024	Joint Family Law Program ( <i>joint session with Law Society of Manitoba and Court of King's Bench Judges – Family Division</i> )
April 10, 2024	Protection order docket
June 4, 2024	Family Law Section Spring BBQ



# 2023/2024 SECTION ACTIVITY

## Immigration Law

November 3, 2023	Online Roundtable Discussion
December 5, 2023	Immigration Law Section meeting with CBSA Wpg Airport and Inland Enforcement
April 23, 2024	Update from the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program – Skilled Worker & Business Streams

## Insolvency Law

December 11, 2023	Insolvency Law Section Annual CPD/Holiday Event ( <i>joint session with MAIRP</i> )
June 18, 2024	Goldeyes Game with MAIRP

## Internationally Trained Lawyers'

April 10, 2024	Internationally Trained Lawyers' Section Mixer
April 16, 2024	Strategies to Manage Difficult Client Relationships

## Labour & Employment Law

November 3, 2023	Labour and Employment Law 101 Panel
January 19, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Creating a Culture of DEI in the Workplace: A discussion on human rights and accessibility laws, obligations and best practices
March 20, 2024	Key Legislative Updates ( <i>joint session with CCCA Section</i> )
May 10, 2024	Preparing for and Conducting Labour Arbitrations

## Legal Research

November 7, 2023	Legislative Library Information Session
December 13, 2023	Annual Legal Research Section Holiday Party
January 19, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Research Trends & Best Practices
February 7, 2024	Expert Witnesses ( <i>joint session with the Civil Litigation Section</i> )
March 5, 2024	Accessible Websites ( <i>joint session with the Equality Section</i> )
March 14, 2024	Careers in Legal Research
May 7, 2024	Plain Language Drafting
June 10, 2024	Manitoba Law Library: Beyond loose-leafs and databases

## Municipal Law

January 18, 2024	Mid-Winter CPD – Tackling homelessness in Manitoba: Learning from the Nordic Experience ( <i>joint session with the Public Sector Lawyers' Section</i> )
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## Public Sector Lawyers'

October 5, 2023	Tour of Dalnavert Museum
November 9, 2023	The Caretaker Convention

January 18, 2024

Mid-Winter CPD – Trade Secrets: The Bid Protest Mechanism under Domestic Trade Agreements (*joint session with the CCCA Section*)

January 18, 2024

Mid-Winter CPD – Tackling homelessness in Manitoba: Learning from the Nordic Experience (*joint session with the Municipal Law Section*)

April 18, 2023

Brown Bag Ethics for Public Sector Lawyers

June 17, 2024

Self-Guided Audio Tour of The Forks

## Real Property

November 24, 2023

Due Diligence: Building the Foundation

January 19, 2024

Mid-Winter CPD – Common Conveyancing Pitfalls at Land Titles – Why Your Registrations are Getting Rejected and What You Can Do About it

## Securities Law

November 21, 2023

Update from The Manitoba Securities Commission

## SOGIC Manitoba

November 6, 2023

Joint SOGIC/OUTLAWS Dinner Reception

May 28, 2024

SOGIC (*Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Community*) and the Law Society of Manitoba Jointly sponsored Pride Reception

## Taxation Law

January 18, 2024

Mid-Winter CPD – Current Issues in Tax Law

## Technology, Intellectual Property & Privacy Law

January 19, 2024

Mid-Winter CPD – Women, Emerging Technologies, and the Law (*joint session with the Women Lawyers' Forum Section*)

May 7, 2024

Opening Up about Open Source Software

June 27, 2024

Wrap-Up Meeting

## Wills, Estates and Trusts

January 19, 2024

Mid-Winter CPD – Overview of Testamentary Trusts – Understanding the Fundamentals to Draft, Implement and Advise

May 9, 2024

POAs, HCDs and Committeeships (*joint session with the Law Society of Manitoba*)

## Women Lawyers' Forum

September 14, 2024

Celebrating Success - Wine and Cheese Reception for Women Lawyers and Judges

January 19, 2024

Mid-Winter CPD – Women, Emerging Technologies, and the Law (*joint session with the Technology, Intellectual Property & Privacy Law Section*)

March 26, 2024

WLF/FLF Spring Roundtable

May 9, 2024

Spring Networking Event





## 2023/2024 SECTION ACTIVITY

June 18, 2024

Celebrating Success - Wine and Cheese  
Reception for Women Lawyers and Judges

Young Lawyers'

October 12, 2023

Small Claims Primer (*joint session with Civil  
Litigation Section*)

November 2, 2023

It Gets Better

January 19, 2024

Mid-Winter CPD – Practical Resources to  
Support Your Career

February 26, 2024

Volunteer Opportunity at Siloam Mission

February 28, 2024

Volunteer Opportunity at Siloam Mission

March 25, 2024

Charity Spin Class at the Community Gym

May 22, 2024

Ask A Young Lawyer Anything



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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