



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
British Columbia Branch

FORUM DRUM

Spring 2014
Issue 5, Volume 1

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or go to Facebook and search:
"Aboriginal Lawyers Forum"

CBABC Aboriginal Lawyers Forum

ALF Executive Update

by Christina J. Cook, CBABC ALF Co-Chair

Well the ALF has been busy busy. We are pleased to have hosted another successful Holiday Banquet in December 2013 (our 4th!). This year, in lieu of hosting the Speed Mentoring event, we decided to work with the UBC First Nations Legal Studies Program with their networking event on February 4, 2014. As set out below in Dana-Lyn Mackenzie's article, this event brought together UBC students and lawyers. Also, the ALF is working on a networking event for lawyers on April 2, 2014 (however, as usual students are welcome to attend). On April 2, 2014 the ALF will be hosting a mixer and presentation on the "Introvert Advantage". We hope this event will appeal to everyone - as the extroverts can come for the mixer and the introverts can come for the presentation!



Also, back by popular demand the ALF has planned a retreat on May 2 - 4, 2014!! We are pleased to be hosting the retreat at Spirit Ridge Estate, Osoyoos, BC. a First Nations Owned and Operated Resort! Our speakers will include the Honourable Bob Rae, UBC Law Professor Gordon Christie, David Rosenberg and Caleb Behn. Also, in addition to awesome presentations and delicious food; the resort offers golf, a five star spa, a vineyard and wine tours, private beach, pool (with waterslide) and a cultural centre with a special ALF cultural tour. We hope to see you at the retreat!

Finally, the ALF is working with the DOJ on the 8th Annual National Aboriginal Day On-Line Auction and Reception. The reception will be held on June 20, 2014, so please save the date.

In addition to our events, the ALF is working to meet the needs of our members. We have drafted two surveys and we would like to hear from you! Please keep an eye out for our surveys and provide us what your feedback and suggestions. Finally, the ALF is working with the Law Society on the Aboriginal Mentoring Program (see more about this in Andrea Hilland's article below). If you have any suggestions or ideas for this program please contact Andrea or the ALF.



3RD ANNUAL ALF RETREAT

MAY 2 - 4, 2014

COST: \$250 for CBA MEMBERS

\$300 for NON-CBA MEMBERS

Go To: http://www.cbapd.org/details_en.aspx?id=BC_ALF0514 for details.

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DID YOU KNOW?

You can get 50% off ANY CLE presentation just by calling them and advising them you are Aboriginal!!! This discount is on any presentation by the Continuing Legal Education Society! However, you cannot get the discount if you register on-line, you must call to register for a presentation. So the next time there is a CLE that you want to attend, don't forget to call to get 50% off!

4th Annual ALF Holiday Banquet

by ALF

We are pleased to have hosted another successful Holiday Banquet in December (our 4th!). In particular, the ALF executive would like to congratulate Darwin Hanna and Cynthia Calison on winning the inaugural ALF Special Contribution Award. This award honours Darwin and Cynthia's contribution to the Aboriginal bar, Aboriginal legal scholarship, and support for the ALF. Going forward, we will be opening up this award to nominations from our members. We will be publishing a nomination form in September and will be asking our members to submit nominees for this award. The award will be given out at the 2014 Holiday Banquet. So, stay tuned for further details.



More Than \$38,000 For Aboriginal Law Students!

by Isabel Jackson

In partnership with the Department of Justice BC Region, last year the ALF's 2013 National Aboriginal Day On-Line auction raised more than \$4,000 towards the CBABC's Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust. To date we have now raised more than \$38,000 to assist Aboriginal law students at UBC, UVic and now Thompson River University! Not only is this a successful fundraiser the reception provides a fun time for supporters to come together to recognize and celebrate National Aboriginal Day. Last year's reception event took place at the River Rock Casino Resort where registrants thoroughly enjoyed



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a performance by Gitxsan music artist Garrett Tyler Stevens. Save the date! This year's 2014 reception will again take place at the River Rock on Friday, June 20, 2014 and will again spotlight rising talent from the Aboriginal community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? You can support our 2014 auction event by soliciting or directly donating an item to be auctioned off. Auction items include original works such as books, photography, paintings, limited edition prints and jewellery. Other popular items include tickets, passes, gift certificates/cards, etc. Solicit a donation from your favourite restaurant, spa or other business that you patronize. Opportunities for corporate promotions are provided on the auction website as well as at the reception event. There is also an "other" category for select pre-owned items that remain suitable for recycling/re-gifting. Be creative when considering what you can donate that will attract a bid!

If you want to become involved to help this unique fundraising event continue to grow please contact Isabel Jackson (Isabel.jackson@justice.gc.ca), Jennifer Duncan (jduncan@mcdonaldandco.com) or Christina Cook (ccook@nanaimolaw.com).

CBABC ALF Newsletter Spring 2014

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Contact Us!

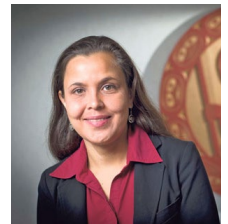
Are you interested in writing an article for the ALF Newsletter or have any comments or feedback? Send your comments and feedback to **ALF@cbabc.org**.

Don't forget to sign up as a member of the ALF on your CBABC Section Enrolment forms.
Go to **www.cba.org** for more details.

LSBC Aboriginal Lawyers Mentorship Program Update

by Andrea Hilland, Law Society staff lawyer

The Aboriginal Lawyers Mentorship Program is a collaborative initiative guided by the CBA BC Aboriginal Lawyers Forum (ALF) and Law Society of British Columbia, as well as representatives from legal education and the private bar. The Program is intended to enhance the retention and advancement of lawyers with Aboriginal ancestry, who are currently underrepresented in the legal profession in BC. While mentorship is the obvious focus of the Program, spinoffs include an improved awareness of the Aboriginal bar in various regions of the province, a strengthened support network for junior Aboriginal lawyers, and the exposure of various issues that are affecting young Aboriginal practitioners.



The Program was launched during ALF's annual Aboriginal Day celebration on June 21, 2013, signalling the start of recruitment for the Program. Pairing of mentors and mentees began in September of 2013. The Program is now approaching the halfway mark of its inaugural year.

The Mentorship Committee set a goal of pairing 20 mentors with 20 mentees. At present, 17 mentorship pairs have been established. More than half of these pairs are located outside of the Lower Mainland, indicating a real need for mentorship of Aboriginal lawyers in the more remote areas of the province.

From the outset, there has been an overwhelming response from mentors who represent a broad range of practice areas in various regions of the province. Their enthusiasm demonstrates that the BC bar is very supportive of efforts to retain junior Aboriginal lawyers, and to facilitate their career advancement. The Program is encouraging Aboriginal mentees to make use of the excellent pool of available mentors, and is still accepting applications. If you would like to participate, more information is available at: <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=3781&t=Aboriginal-Lawyers-Mentorship-Program>, or by contacting Andrea Hilland, staff lawyer with the Law Society of British Columbia at ahilland@lsbc.org or (604) 443-5727.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can get FREE counselling through PPC Canada that is paid for by your Law Society dues!

PPC Canada is a long established (since 1977) Employee and Family Wellness Program provider with a reputation for quality with integrity. This program is also open to your family and legal staff!! Call PPC to find out more: Telephone: (604) 431-8200 or 1-800-663-9099

ALF Memeber Spotlight: Shain Jackson

Shain Jackson is Coast Salish from the community of Sechelt. He is a lawyer who has represented the interests of Aboriginal communities and organizations throughout British Columbia in relation to a broad array of issues. After years devoted to the legal profession Shain has taken a break to follow his passion as an artist.

Artistically, Shain works in Coast Salish design. As he has continued to develop his own artwork to a higher level, he has had the privilege of collaborating with many amazing local artists. Along these lines Shain has devoted much of his time to the protection of artists' rights.



Currently Shain is the President of Spirit Works Limited, an Aboriginal owned, operated and staffed company focused on the design, production and distribution of Aboriginal artwork such as jewelry, bentwood boxes, paddles, and so on.

Shain has always taken very seriously his responsibilities not only to his own community, but to the urban Aboriginal community at large. Further to this, through his company Spirit Works, Shain: has developed programs aimed at providing employment and training to Aboriginal youth; donates space, equipment and expertise to Aboriginal artists in need; consistently donates time and artwork to numerous charitable organizations; has designed and facilitated workshops aimed at providing cultural teachings for at-risk Aboriginal youth; and much more.

VISIT SPIRIT WORKS WEBSITE AT: www.authenticaboriginalproducts.ca

Updates from the Indigenous Legal Studies Program at UBC Law

by Dana-Lyn Mackenzie, Associate Director, ILSP

The ILSP held its second annual Employer Networking Event February 4th, in the Terrace Lounge of Allard Hall. We had 18 lawyers and 32 students attend this successful event, which focused on soft skills building. This event complements the Career Services Events put on each year. It is only open to Indigenous law students, and provides an opportunity for our students to mingle with lawyers and other legal professionals who regularly recruit from firms and government organizations in a comfortable setting. Many substantive conversations occur over the evening and students enjoy gaining confidence in networking through positive interactions. ALF executive member Hannah MacDonald attended on behalf of ALF, offering students mentorship and support.



Andrea Hilland, Staff Lawyer from the Law Society of British Columbia, was invited to UBC Law through the ILSP to launch a mentorship program aimed at retaining Aboriginal lawyers and newly called lawyers in BC. The gap between being a student, getting articles and launching a practice will be addressed and supported through this mentorship program. Andrea's talk on January 30 at UBC Law was very positive, and there appeared to be a fair amount of interest from the UBC Law students.

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February 4-7, 2014 marked our most success Indigenous Awareness Week to date, with a focus on artwork and drumming, both with interactive components. Opening day was First Nations Day, and after a welcome from Associate Dean Ben Goold, ILSP Director and Professor Gordon Christie, Law Students Society President Paul Kressock and Indigenous Law Students' Association President Stephen Mussell, the internationally renowned Nisga'a/ Tsimshian dance troupe Git Hayetsk performed. Day 2 was interactive drumming with Heyweynoqu House, and speaker Joselyn Robinson highlighted her career as an artist and recently a PhD candidate at UBC Education. The students made and sold Indian Tacos as a fundraiser. Day 3 was an interactive art forum, led by first year student Catriona Dooley, where students could enjoy a walkthrough of artwork, much of it made for Professor Michael Jackson's Treaty Law and Penal Policy classes over the years, and then make dream catchers and beaded key chains. Artist and carver Dave Robinson was in attendance. Day 4 was Métis Day, with buffalo stew and performers from Compagni V'ni Dansi delighted all. We topped the week off with a fun filled Jeopardy competition where 7 student teams and 2 faculty teams displayed a wide spectrum of knowledge from Miley Cyrus to the duty to consult.

We will hold our last Speaker Series on March 6, with a talk called, "Overcoming Barriers". The Honorable Garth Smith and Bev Jacobs will speak. It is at 12:30-2:00 in room 123 in Allard Hall, all are welcome.

ILSA put on their 8th Annual Charity Golf tournament Friday, March 21 at the University Golf Club in Vancouver. Proceeds raised will go towards a new award at UBC Law for Indigenous Law students. The award will assist students with the daunting task of financing their education. The award recognizes academic promise, community involvement and financial need. Donations to the award can be made to the UBC Faculty of Law, attention Dana-Lyn Mackenzie, 1822 East Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1. Tax receipts will be issued.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Law Society of BC an Equity Ombudsperson!! This Equity Ombudsperson confidentially assists anyone who works in a law in resolving concerns over possible discrimination or harassment, and assists law firms in preventing discrimination and promoting a healthy work environment. The Equity Ombudsperson will discuss your issues and advise you of your options, all matters are kept confidential and it is YOUR choice on how you want to resolve the issue. For more information or to contact the Equity Ombudsperson please call 604.687.2344 or email to achopra1@novuscom.net.

ALSST Donations

To make a donation to the CBABC Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust please call the CBABC office at 1-877-669-9601.



UBC's Indigenous Law Students' Association

by Stephen Mussell, ILSA president

The Indigenous Law Students' Association (ILSA) is one of the largest and most active clubs at UBC Law. We have seen steady growth over the past few years, and hope that this growth will result in the positive outcomes ILSA strives to achieve.

First, through the various events we put on during the academic year, ILSA seeks to draw attention to some of the central issues that the Indigenous peoples of Canada face, both within the law and otherwise. We believe this to be a necessary and important part of the law school experience, regardless of your future or current area of practice, as Indigenous issues frequently shape the laws and policies of Canadian government and industry. It is important that these issues are recognized as being significant, and we hope that having a more informed legal community in the future will result in beneficial outcomes for all.

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Second, through an open membership policy and by encouraging both Indigenous and non-indigenous students alike to become engaged with ILSA, we hope to create a more inclusive and cooperative atmosphere amongst all those who attend UBC law.

Finally, we seek to create a caring and supportive network for all students, and to act as a forum for anyone interested in Indigenous issues to share their thoughts, ideas, and opinions.

With a strong, committed membership, and a support system that is one of the best in the nation, we are confident that ILSA will continue to be a successful and influential presence at Allard Hall.

Thompson Rivers University Indigenous Law Students' Association (ILSA) Update

by Miranda Schmold, 2013/14 President TRU ILSA

Three years ago the first new law school in Canada in over 30 years opened its doors in Kamloops, BC at Thompson Rivers University. The inaugural class will be graduating this June and includes the first four Aboriginal law students to graduate from the Faculty of Law at TRU: Debra Febril of the Nisga'a Nation, Chrystie Stewart of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, Miranda Schmold of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and Murray Sholty of the Hagwilget Village Council. During this time founding members of the TRU ILSA have been busy hosting events and working on many initiatives with the Faculty of Law, University and community, to ensure that our group will continue on long after many of us graduate law school this spring.



The TRU ILSA was formed on October 25, 2011 by its founding President, Vice-President and a group of about 10 students. Today, we are comprised of an almost complete executive, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and an Aboriginal Representative that sits on the TRU Society of Law Students (SLS), and over 30 members and supporters. We have also had the support of various Faculty Advisors including, Founding Dean Chris Axworthy, and Professors Janna Promislow and Nicole Schabus.

This year we are planning a meet and greet with local Aboriginal lawyers, judges and other legal professionals in the Kamloops community, a sweat lodge ceremony and sending ILSA members to the upcoming ALF Retreat!

On January 6, 2014 we were excited to move into the new law floors, which were added onto the Old Main building of the TRU Campus. ILSA was also happy to move into its very own Office within the new law library! We have also been working closely with the Faculty, University and the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Chief and Council on establishing a territorial marker within the new law building.

The TRU ILSA congratulates the first four Aboriginal law students to graduate from the TRU Faculty of Law, and we look forward to welcoming more Aboriginal law students and future ILSA members to TRU Law. The next time you are in Kamloops we encourage you to visit our new law school and ILSA Office, and join us on June 13, 2014 for the Grand Opening of the TRU law school and June 14, 2014 for the first convocation ceremony of the TRU Faculty of Law!



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