

NOVA VOCE



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The Voice of the Legal Profession in Nova Scotia



BABIES AND BOARDROOMS

SPOTLIGHT ON PARENTAL LEAVE

WORKING WAYS
DURING SUMMER DAYS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



M. JEAN
BEELER, QC

Weldon McInnis

Since the last report for Nova Voce the Branch has been busy with many of the activities reported in the last issue. The Executive Committee continues to work on the development of our new strategic plan. Many of the goals and activities we will include in the new plan depend on new programs, products and services being developed for the new CBA 2.0. As these programs and products become operationalized over the coming months we will continue to consult with members on how to best implement them here in Nova Scotia. We also continued to work on the by-law review and have completed the new Branch by-laws. These By-laws were reviewed by the Executive and were presented at the Annual General Meeting in June. This huge task was completed quickly and competently under the direction of Annette Boucher, Q.C. and Dennis James, Q.C. We owe them both a huge thanks and the governance of the Branch can go forward knowing that the by-laws are accurate and reliable.

The Executive was working on Terms of Reference for the various Bench and Bar Liaison Committees following the request of the NSBS to assume responsibility for their ongoing governance. The work was suspended and ultimately ended in mid-May when the NSBS decided to continue its work overseeing these committees. The CBA-NS will continue to have representatives serve on these committees in the meantime.

The Council Meeting in March was held in the multi-purpose room at McInnes Cooper. We were fortunate to have Dean Camille Cameron address Council. She presented a lively and interesting

talk which aids in strengthening the relationship between the Law School and the Branch. In a follow up lunch meeting with myself, Tina Tucker and Carrie Ricker (Membership and Member Services Chair) we were able to explore the possibility of universal student membership. This discussion is expected to continue into the fall. Following the lunch meeting we prepared a congratulatory letter to be sent to each graduating law student. This letter emphasizes the benefits of continuing their membership into their articles and beyond.

Finally, professional development remains a key component of our mandate. Following a successful two-day conference in the fall, we held a one-day criminal law conference on April 13, 2018 on "The Nuts and Bolts of Bail". This conference was well attended with a cross-section of Nova Scotia Legal Aid lawyers, representatives from the Public Prosecution Service, the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, lawyers from large and small firms as well as sole practitioners. We received very positive comments from the attendees. Our 2018 Annual two-day conference will be held on December 6 and 7 at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel in Halifax. Next year we will also host the 20th Anniversary of the Family Division Conference and a Bench and Bar Dinner on April 5, 2019. That conference is being organized by Justice Elizabeth Jollimore and Jennifer Kooren, Chair of the Family Law Section.

Many thanks to the hard working members and staff who devote many hours to the Nova Voce publication - a vital link in keeping members connected! Enjoy and have a great summer.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Jennifer Keliher, Burchells LLP
Tammy Wohler, Nova Scotia Legal Aid
Michael Murphy, McInnes Cooper
Damien Barry, Sampson McPhee



Gail Gatchalian, QC
Pink Larkin

VICE PRESIDENT On June 6th, we started our planning for the 2018-2019 program year by welcoming new and returning Section Vice-Chairs and Chairs. I was pleased to report at that meeting on our very successful year-to-date: 125 Section meetings were held between September 1 and May 31 attracting 1,764 registrants, compared to the same time frame last year when we held 112 meetings with 1,532 registrants. Our excellent Professional Development Committee has worked diligently the past several months and the program is almost complete for the CBANS Annual Conference, scheduled for December 6 and 7, 2018. On a final note, I'll be heading up a Committee to look at how CBANS can enact the CBA National Resolution on Sexual Harassment in Canadian Workplaces, with a focus on public education and cultural change, including by-stander intervention training. Keep an eye out for the call for committee members.



Dennis James, QC
Patterson Law

PAST PRESIDENT Work has completed on the revised by-laws for CBA-NS largely due to the efforts of Annette Boucher, Q.C. The by-laws were presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting on June 13 and marked the final step in reconciling CBA-NS' by-laws with the CBA revisions following the Rethink process. We also wanted to ensure that current practices of CBA-NS are properly reflected in the governing documents. The AGM marked the end of my term as Past President and my four years as a member of the Executive Committee of CBA-NS. It has been a rewarding undertaking that has allowed me to meet many in our profession that I would not otherwise have had occasion to meet. The past four years have been eventful as CBA transitioned through the Rethink process and worked to ensure its ongoing relevance. CBA-NS has also worked hard to provide important services to its members whether in professional development or advocacy. I want to close by extending my personal thanks to Tina, Jill and Ian for their outstanding work and support and, also, to express my appreciation to the many colleagues with whom I have had the privilege of serving.

Congratulations to Gail Gatchalian on receiving the Queen's Counsel designation!



Dan Wallace,
McInnes Cooper

TREASURER I am pleased to report that the finances of the CBA-NS branch continue to be in good shape. Thanks to years of prudent financial management and successful professional development conferences, the branch has accumulated healthy reserves. The branch intends to form a working group to discuss how to use those reserves to best serve its members.

Also, in an effort to increase membership, the CBA will lower its annual membership fees in the upcoming years. This is projected to have a neutral financial impact on the Nova Scotia branch, and we are closely monitoring developments to ensure this is the case.



Ryan Brothers,
Department of
Justice

YOUNG LAWYERS The Young Lawyers Section's year is coming to an end and we would like to thank the presenters, who volunteered their time, and section members for participating and making this a successful year. Since the last edition of Nova Voce, we have had a two-part session on "How To ... Run a Small Claims Court Proceeding", with Gus Richardson, Q.C. and Sara Nicholson. On May 23, we hosted a community educational event with Hope Blooms, which will be followed in June by a volunteer opportunity to help Hope Blooms with their community garden—stay tuned for details. The end of year social was held on June 7 at Antonio, and we thank all members who attended! On a personal note, I would like to thank Jennifer Taylor, who will be taking the reins as Chair, for her help the past two years and welcome the incoming Vice Chair, Courtney Barbour.



Jennifer Keliher,
Burchells LLP

COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

The CBA-NS has an active presence on Twitter (follow us @CBA_NS). We love to promote the work of our Sections and the achievements of our individual members so please tag us with photos, Section advocacy efforts, or topics of interest and we can help spread the word.

Should we be on other social media platforms? Are our Tweets relevant? We welcome your thoughts and feedback.

Finally, I want to send a big thanks to the members of our Communications Committee for their volunteerism and hard work over this past year.



Carrie Ricker,
Ricker Law

MEMBERSHIP & MEMBER SERVICES

CBA memberships in Nova Scotia for 2017-2018 remain stable, and new and returning members continue to join. Upcoming membership communications focus on graduating students and articulated clerks. For existing members, I recommend reviewing CBA Practice Link at [https://](https://www.cba.org/Publications-Resources/CBA-Practice-Link)

www.cba.org/Publications-Resources/CBA-Practice-Link if you haven't already. Practice Link features a large selection of practical tools and resources in relation to practice management, career development and emerging legal trends. The Publications and Resources section of the CBA website also includes access to tailored Practice ToolKits (i.e. mortgage instruction) and the CBA Legal Career Centre offering more great resources for members.



Jack Townsend,
Cox & Palmer

EQUITY

On March 8, the Equity Committee partnered with the Young Lawyers Section, SOGIC, the Women's Forum, and the Dalhousie Feminist Legal Association for a session at Dalhousie University, entitled "An Update on Abortion Access in Nova Scotia: An International Women's Day Discussion". This was an extremely informative event, and was well-attended by law students and lawyers alike.

The next action item for the Committee will be to assist with the planning and preparation for the CBA-NS and NSBS joint entry in this year's Halifax Pride Parade, scheduled for Saturday, July 21. Mark your calendars to come out and show your pride with your colleagues!

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CBA NATIONAL BOARD UPDATE



**RAY
ADLINGTON**

McInnes Cooper

Our National Board agenda this year focused on implementation of the strategic direction developed during the Re-Think Initiative. The streamlined governance model is fully implemented. We are introducing our shared services model as we work to reduce redundancy across the CBA. We have completed our study of member products, programs and services that was informed by member surveys over the past year and you will be seeing changes over the next year as a result of that work.

The changes being made have allowed us to reduce the CBA national regular membership fee from \$590 to \$530 for 2018-19 and \$500 for 2019-20. The national levy has also been reduced from \$30.73 to \$15.00. Significant changes have also been made to the CBA funding formula so that all Branches will maintain their current funding levels as the fees are reduced.

Our Board recently approved the formation of a national Child & Youth Law Section for next year. The mandate of this Section is to coordinate and deliver professional development activities, provide advice, and respond to law, policy and legal research developments on matters affecting Canadian children and youth in all legal disciplines. Their aim is to increase awareness in the Canadian bar of the rights of children and youth and the impact of legal issues and challenges

in their lives. Branch members seeking to join this new national Section can do so as part of their annual renewal.

We have entered a new era of governance transparency. Our Board meetings are open for any CBA member to observe. Minutes of Board meetings are published [here](#) and minutes of Governance and Equality Committee meetings are published [here](#) to provide members with a record of our discussions and decisions.

Welcome to Burchells LLP partner Jason Cooke as the Nova Scotia member of the Board of Directors beginning in September. Thanks also to Branch members who have agreed to serve on a CBA National Committee this coming year: Cheryl Canning (Chair, Wellness), Krista Forbes (Policy), Patricia Fricker-Bates (Law Reform), and Jessica Lyle (Sections). They will be part of our 16 National Committees that reflect our Association membership. Among all Committee appointees 57% are women,

18% are racialized and 4% are Indigenous, 4% are lawyers with disabilities, and 11% are members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

I will soon begin my term as CBA President and am honoured to join the seven past Nova Scotian Presidents - J. McG. Stewart (1941-42), Donald McInnes (1960-61), Gordon Cooper (1967-68), William Cox (1980-81), Gordon Proudfoot (1995-96), Brian Tabor (2005-06), and Trinda Ernst (2011-12). My key success factors for the next year are simple – more CBA members that are more satisfied, improve member wellness and deepen the CBA relationship with every equality-seeking lawyer group.

Thanks to all of the Branch Executive Officers for their support and guidance throughout the past year. Thanks also to Executive Director Tina Tucker for patiently answering my many questions this year and for her many contributions to the national management of the CBA.

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SPOTLIGHT ON PARENTAL LEAVE

Part I



JENNIFER
KELIBER

Burchells LLP

Note: Written with files from Damien Barry.

While some lawyers are seasoned veterans at managing the day-to-day juggling act of work and family life, others—like me—are new to the scene. My son, Patrick (our handsome cover boy for this issue), was born seven months ago and has turned my world upside down in the best possible ways ever since.

In November 2018 I will return to work as an associate lawyer at Burchells LLP after having taken a year-long maternity leave, which my firm has been very supportive of both socially and financially. Ultimately, I believe that my time away from the office will actually make me a more effective lawyer in the office. In my parenting journey so far I have learned to think more intuitively, to trust my instincts, and to better appreciate the value of time. I have also learned how to function on less sleep!

Emma Astephen is an associate lawyer at Sampson McPhee in Sydney and is currently on her second parental leave. Emma is the proud mother of Olivia, age two, and Sadie, who is eight months old. Emma is due to return to work and resume her developing family law practice in the fall.

Having two young children whilst trying to establish a law practice has definitely been a challenge for Emma but one that

she has certainly enjoyed and relished to date.

“The hardest part is being away from the job for so long. Like anything else I’m sure, if you aren’t using your skills daily they can start to diminish,” she said. “But I have to say everyone has always been so supportive through both pregnancies and with me leaving my career for a period of time. Both colleagues and clients have been very understanding and I have been lucky enough, by practicing with a firm, to have another lawyer always willing to take on my existing clients.”

Not all new parents are able to take a year off work, especially those who are self-employed. Persisting male and female gender roles also contribute to fewer fathers taking advantage of paternity leave benefits (though I encourage you to read Michael Murphy’s article on the next page about his experience taking parental leave). No matter what one’s leave may look like, there are a few resources of which new or expectant parents and their workplaces should be aware:

1) Employment standards legislation

Under the Nova Scotia *Labour Standards Code*, a pregnant employee who has been employed by her employer for at least one year is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence for up to 17 weeks for maternity leave and up to an additional 35 weeks for parental leave. Similarly, a non-birthing parent who has been employed by his or her employer for at least one year is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence for up to 52 weeks.

Under the federal Employment Insurance system, maternity benefits are available

for up to 15 weeks at a weekly rate of 55% of a claimant’s average weekly insurable earnings up to a maximum of \$547 per week (as of 2018).

Two types of EI parental leave benefits are now available: (1) standard parental benefits, which can be paid for up to 35 weeks at a weekly rate of 55% of a claimant’s average weekly insurable earnings up to a maximum of \$547 per week (as of 2018); or (2) extended parental benefits, which can be paid for up to 61 weeks at a weekly rate of 33% of the claimant’s average weekly insurable earnings up to a maximum of \$328 per week (as of 2018).

2) Parental Leave Support Program

The Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society (NSBS) in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Lawyers’ Assistance Program offers a [Parental Leave Support Program](#) designed to assist lawyers who plan to take parental leave. The program includes one-on-one parental leave coaching sessions, meetings with other lawyers who have had similar experiences, and online tips and resources.

The NSBS has also published a [Model Policy on Maternity and Parental Leave](#).

3) CBA Parental Leave Benefit Program

This program is available to all CBA members in good standing who are on parental leave and whose CBA membership was paid in full the previous year. Members may be eligible for a maximum credit of twelve months towards their membership fees.

Application for the Parental Leave Benefit Program can be made [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON PARENTAL LEAVE

Part II



MICHAEL MURPHY

McInnes Cooper

Don't let their overwhelming cuteness fool you: taking care of an infant is hard work.

Taking care of an infant and a toddler at the same time is even harder.

Having to run your own small business with over 20 employees (like my wife does) AND take care of an infant and toddler decidedly does not make things easier, and when you throw in the fact that your second child was born at the beginning of one of the coldest most bitter winters in recent memory – well, it's just a bad scene altogether.

Lucky for us, McInnes Cooper has a great parental leave policy that allowed me to take time off from my Labour and Employment practice between February and August 2015 after our second child was born.

Like anyone would in my situation, I wondered how my leave might impact my growing practice. And for the first few weeks I had to actively resist the urge to check my email, and check in on files. But like the ice that caked Halifax's sidewalks that winter, those concerns gradually melted away.

There were many sleepless nights, and lots of early mornings, but because my wife and I were able to share the responsibility those post-partum issues were much easier to bear. Since my wife is a business owner, she did not have the luxury of being able to completely step away from things. After just a few weeks off, she had to start resuming most of her usual duties. Because I took the time off, I was able to support her return to work, and bridge the gap until we were able to put our daughter in childcare.

Taking parental leave when my daughter was born is one of the best decisions I have made as a parent. More important than the practical aspects, I was able to be there with my daughter for those first months of her life, and all the "firsts" that come with that time – I was there for the first time she laughed, and the first time she rolled over, and, since she got mobile way too early, for her first crawl too. I was able to take a deep breath of family life, which is not something we often get to do as lawyers.

And I'm happy to say that there was plenty of work waiting for me at the office when I returned.

2018/2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/BRANCH COUNCIL/AGM CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Executive Committee Meeting Dates/ Times (to be held at CBA Office unless preceding Council or AGM):

Thursday, September 13, 2018: 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
(includes Orientation for new members)

Thursday, October 18, 2018: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 22, 2018: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, December 20, 2018: Pre-Council Executive Meeting, 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, January 17, 2019: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, February 21, 2019: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 21, 2019: Pre-Council Executive Meeting, 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. (TBA)

Thursday, April 18, 2019: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 16, 2019: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 13, 2019: Pre-AGM Executive Meeting, 4 – 4:15 p.m. (Venue TBA)

COUNCIL

Thursday, December 20, 2018: 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
(Venue TBA)

Thursday, March 21, 2019: 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
(Venue TBA)

AGM

Thursday, June 13, 2019: 5 – 6 p.m.; immediately followed by the President's Reception (Venue TBA)

BALANCING WORK AND PLAY EVERYDAY



**CANDEE
MCCARTHY**
Candee McCarthy
Law

As a sole practitioner, there really is no such thing as vacation time. I am very fortunate to have an exceptional office manager who helps me navigate my office remotely so I can take time off with my family; however, long periods away from my office are just not practical.

Our two boys will be 13 and 15 this year and both are involved in sports and activities. For the most part, I coordinate my work schedule around their games and tournaments and try to fill in quality family time from there. As the boys got older and I opened my own firm, we found that travel is easier for us over Christmas or Easter, so rather than take extended time off in the summer we enjoy the East Coast (and particularly our Cape Breton Island) on the weekends and save our “big” trips for over the winter holidays. I can easily take a Monday or Friday off for long summer weekends to travel short distances so we have quality time that doesn’t require me to be away from my office for too long.

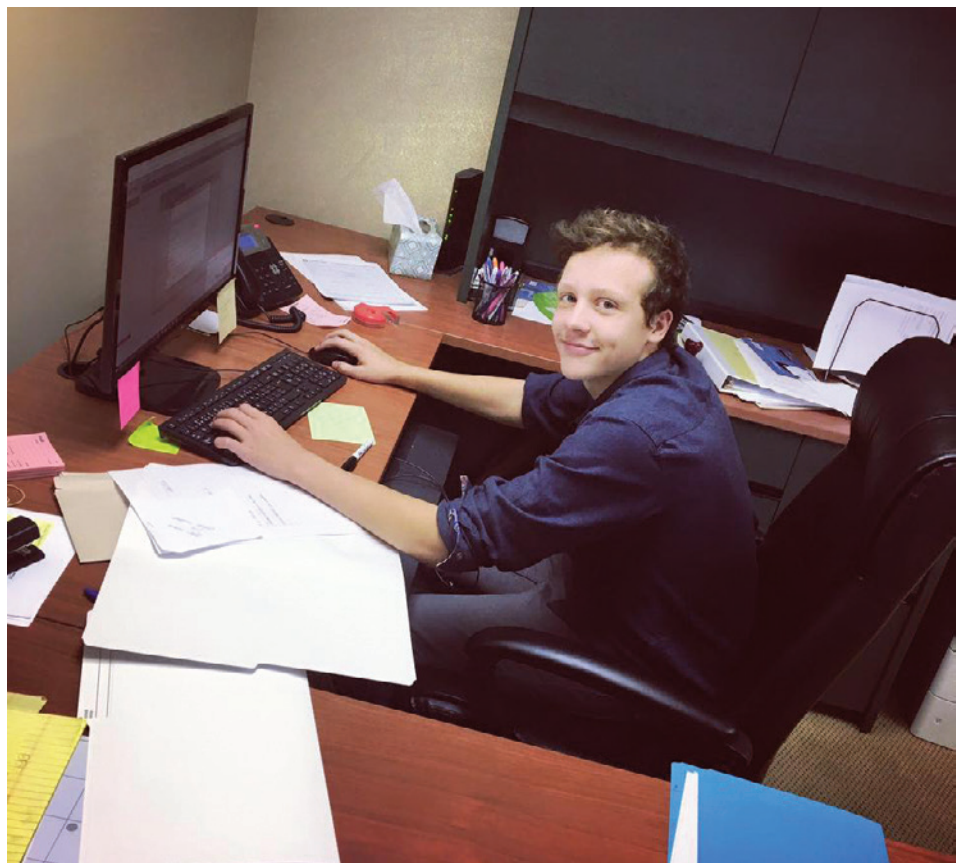
Our family loves to hike and go to the beach. We host guests, enjoy summer evenings on Dominion Beach (where we live), have backyard bonfires, go to the Bayside for ice cream, and participate in our community’s summer festivals. We do something fun almost every day and I also work almost every day, so I try to balance both. I can work on a rainy Saturday or Sunday and I can take the afternoon off on a sunny Wednesday

to take the kids to the shore. This is one of the great advantages of being your own boss. I really do enjoy my full summer with my family without having to sacrifice my commitment to my office and my clients.

Last summer, my oldest son, Matthew, worked with me one day each week, running errands, cleaning the office, and doing some light administrative work. He was able to gain work experience as well as spend some time with his mom—we made a point of taking a lunch or snack break together each day he was working. My youngest sometimes comes in with me for the day and goes to the park/playground. He uses my office

as his “base” for the day and spends my lunch break with me.

While being a sole practitioner comes with a lot of responsibility that you cannot share with a co-worker, and paid vacation is something you give, not something you get, it is also the most rewarding and enjoyable work I have ever done. A friend of mine says when you love what you do, and you work for yourself you no longer have a job. I have to agree. While it isn’t practical for me to take two weeks off and go away during the summer, I don’t have a job! I just work and have fun all summer long—these are not always mutually exclusive.



WORKING WAYS DURING SUMMER DAYS

DAVID PARKER

BoyneClarke LLP

It's a constant challenge being a lawyer with a busy, active family—your firm wants your time, and your family deserves it. You strive to be an excellent lawyer who continually builds business, and you also want to be a great parent who is present at home.

The great joys of my life are a balance between spending time with my wife, Jacqueline and our three boys, Jacob (6) and twins, William and Thomas (3), practising personal injury law, and maintaining my active lifestyle, specifically swimming and tennis.

The twins hadn't yet reached the one-year mark when I became a partner with my firm, BOYNECLARKE LLP. I knew work would become an even greater part of my life and I thought I had to quickly figure out a plan to keep everything balanced.

Let's face it, when you run a business, in the back of your mind you know you could always be doing more. What I've come to learn is there is no magical solution to a summer work-life balance—and figuring out a plan is impossible. I've just gotten better at recognizing the moments I can step away from work and capturing those chances whenever there's even a small window of time.

Throughout the year, there are events I won't miss—like the firsts of anything for my children, and attending as many sports-related events as possible, even



the practices. I also like to be home during the chaos of supper and bedtime. I want my boys to see that I'm as much of a committed partner to my wife as I am to my work partners. For me, there is no such thing as 9-to-5—my work and family blend together in any given 24-hour period. My boys have been known to run the halls of BOYNECLARKE and my wife has been known to lend strategic business suggestions. And of course, my work follows me home every day too. Intertwining it all is how it works best for me.

In the summer we try to plan as much as possible in advance, scheduling a Maritime family getaway or time at a nearby cottage. But there are moments to grab during the weekdays too. I'll look for them on a day that isn't as heavy at work. If it's a scorcher, I may opt to take

the boys to the pool for the afternoon, knowing I can instead get my work done when the sun sets that night.

But good lawyers are there for clients around the clock. So we've carved out a small space in our home and most nights I get some work in once the boys are in bed and it's finally quiet. And my phone is always on, even at the beach.

I was lucky to grow up watching my role model lawyer father blend work and life so seamlessly. He had an office in our home in Truro and his law practice was always a part of our family. His advice to me was, "the work will always be there when you go back to your desk, so enjoy your sunshine!" Finding the balance is hard, but the search is worth it. It helps my business flourish and makes my family stronger.

BEFORE YOU PACK YOUR BAGS...



**DAMIEN
BARRY**

Sampson McPhee

Now that the busy summer vacation and travel period is on the horizon, here are some travel tips which we often give our clients but sometimes forget to adhere to ourselves!

1. Travel Consent

How often as lawyers are we faced with panicked clients coming into our office at the last minute looking for travel authorizations so that they, or their spouse, can take their child(ren) out of the country?

We as lawyers are not immune to forgetting this simple document ourselves from time to time.

Generally, any travel authorization or consent letter should be signed by any non-accompanying parent or guardian who has custody or access rights to the child(ren) they may be travelling with on their own. The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website has an easy to use standard consent letter that can be downloaded, either in PDF or Word - <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/children/consent-letter>

2. Wills and Other Estate Planning Documents

Again, how often do we remind our clients to update their Wills and estate

planning documents, yet we often fail to do so ourselves, especially before travelling out of the country?

Before travelling, it is always a good idea to review any current estate planning documents, especially if children have recently been born or other significant changes have occurred. .

3. Health Insurance and Vaccinations

When travelling abroad, it is vital to have adequate health insurance in case of any accidents or illnesses that may occur while travelling. How exotic or challenging your trip may be will influence the level of coverage you may be required to purchase before embarking on that adventure vacation. That dream exotic vacation may also require certain vaccinations to be taken in the weeks and months leading up to your departure date.

4. Rental Car Insurance

More often than not, most credit card companies will cover car rental insurance. When using rental car insurance coverage on your credit card, you will likely be required to decline the rental company's damage waiver and use your credit card to cover the complete cost of the car rental. Taking a few moments to review your credit card policy may allow you to make substantial savings on any car rental costs if travelling abroad.

5. Visas

Travelling to far-flung destinations in

Asia or other continents may require visa applications to be submitted or processed prior to your departure. Some countries will allow you to make your application at the border when entering but other countries may require you to have your visa finalized before even boarding the flight to get there. As border security tightens in more and more countries across the globe, so too have visa requirements become more stringent and time consuming.

6. Cellphones / Lap Tops

With heightened security across many borders, in particular the US / Canada border, carrying your work cellphone with you may expose you to a potential search and seizure by a border officer, particularly when entering the US.

While the Canada Border Services Agency has a policy that border agents must have reasonable grounds for searching mobile devices, US border officers can search cellphones and lap tops for any reason. Therefore, if the cellphone you are carrying with you is a work phone that contains privileged and confidential client information, you may be opening yourself up to a potentially serious issue with respect to client confidentiality. In short, if travelling with a work cellphone or lap top and entering the US, then client files and any other privileged information should not be stored directly on your devices.

BRING YOUR KID COURIER TO WORK



LEON
TOVEY
Burchells LLP

We lawyers love to talk about the importance of “maintaining work/life balance,” but what does that really even mean? Personally, I’ve come to appreciate that “maintaining work/life balance” is not so much about segregating my personal life from my professional life as it is about trying to enjoy the way they inevitably overlap. To no small extent, my outlook in this regard has been shaped by the culture of my firm, which encourages this view of “maintaining work/life balance” in a number of both formal and informal ways. One of the more interesting of these, in my view, is our Kid Courier program.

For well over 20 years, Burchells LLP has offered the opportunity each summer for 13-to-18-year-old family members of lawyers and staffers to work at the firm as in-house couriers and general helpers, typically for a week at a time. The program provides an opportunity for

participants to get exposure to work in an office environment, earn some extra cash, and add something a little different to their young resumé. For many of them, working as a Kid Courier is their first paying job.

In the seven years I’ve worked at Burchells, I’ve seen more than a dozen children of co-workers take part in the program. It’s been fascinating to watch my colleagues’ kids learn time-management, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills in the process of couriering packages and running errands to various law firms and other downtown locations. I’m always impressed by how resourceful and knowledgeable these kids become over the course of a week or two (seriously: I’ve worked downtown nearly a decade and I still couldn’t tell you how to find the Registry of Joint Stock Companies or how to work that copier at the Law Courts).

Just as importantly, I feel more connected to my co-workers after witnessing them interact with their children on a daily basis. Regardless of firm hierarchy, we all experience the same feelings of pride, trepidation, and nervousness watching

our kids take a new step forward in life. Watching our kids take that step in the form of a new job in our very own office (where their actions are both a reflection and validation of our skills as parents) intensifies those feelings. Knowing that so many of my colleagues have also experienced those feelings has helped me appreciate how much we are really all in the same boat.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Kid Courier program also has had an impact on my relationship with my own teenage son. I’ve enjoyed watching him work hard, learn from his successes and mistakes, and grow as a person. This is nothing new. However, when he first took part in the program last summer, I found the daily commute to and from the office, the shared gossip, and the frequent trips to the Scotia Square food court gave us a new way of communicating with and understanding each other. I think he got out of the program what I hope all the participants get out of it: an understanding that work is part of life, not something separate from life; the key is to learn to embrace that fact, so you can get on with the serious business of enjoying it.

2018-2019 CONFERENCE DATES

Annual Conference

Thursday, December 6th and
Friday, December 7th, 2018
Marriott Harbourfront Hotel

20th Anniversary of the Family Division Conference

April 5th, 2019
Casino Nova Scotia
Followed by a Bench and Bar Dinner

Legal Support Staff

Monday, May 13th, 2019
Casino Nova Scotia

FRIENDLY PETS AND PET FRIENDLY OFFICES

TAMMY WOHLER

Nova Scotia Legal Aid

Mersey. Griffin. Maggie. Banjo. Simon. These are the names of some furry friends seen around Nova Scotia’s law offices. While therapy animals are relatively recent phenomena, friendly pets have been long-standing members of some of Nova Scotia’s law firms.

One of these firms is MDW Law. According to Christine Doucet, dogs have been part of the MDW Law family since the very beginning of the firm, and partner Mary Jane McGinty has taken her dog to work for the better part of the last 30 years. Mersey, Christine’s “unofficial” therapy dog, provides comfort to clients and can soften more difficult personalities.

As lawyers, we often help others in crisis or facing significant stressors. The nature of our work is often stressful and conflict-driven. Much of it involves sitting at a desk.

Decades of research have shown that dogs, and other animals, have health benefits. Dogs are known to decrease stress. They force us to take breaks and go for walks, which can boost our creativity, not to mention our health. And when I started taking my dog, Griffin, to my office, I saw very quickly that I, as well as my clients, benefit from his friendly, furry face.



CBA Nova Scotia would like to thank the following organizers and speakers for their outstanding contribution to the **Criminal Law Conference “The Nuts and Bolts of Bail”**, April 13, 2018:

ORGANIZER:

The Honorable Judge Daniel A. MacRury, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia

SPEAKERS:

The Honourable Robin C. Gogan, Supreme Court of Nova Scotia
Denise C. Smith, QC, Deputy Director of Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service

Luke J. Merrimen, Barrister & Solicitor

The Honourable Frank P. Hoskins, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia
Kathryn E. Pentz, QC, Chief Crown Attorney, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service

Karen E. Endres, Managing Lawyer, Nova Scotia Legal Aid
The Honourable Laurel Halfpenny-MacQuarrie, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia

David Curry, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service
David J. Mahoney, Nova Scotia Legal Aid
The Honourable J. Michael MacDonald, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia
James A. Gumpert, QC, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service
Roger A. Burrill, Nova Scotia Legal Aid
The Honourable Duncan R. Beveridge, Nova Scotia Court of Appeal
The Honourable Ronda van der Hoek, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia
Stephen Drake, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service
Megan A. Longley, QC, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Legal Aid
The Honourable Glen G. McDougall, Supreme Court of Nova Scotia
Shauna L. MacDonald, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service
Lonny J. Queripel, Nova Scotia Legal Aid
The Honourable Alanna Murphy, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia
The Honourable Jean Whalen, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia
The Honourable James H. Burrill, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia

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Jessica L. Lyle, Sealy Cornish Coulthard
Amy MacGregor, Cox & Palmer
Michael MacIsaac, Stewart McKelvey
M. Patricia Towler, Chartered Professional Accountants of Nova Scotia



SAMANTHA PARRIS

Called to the Bar: June 2016

Firm/company: Nova Scotia Department of Justice

Areas of Practice: Family Law – Child Protection

Describe your professional experience to date: I started practising with the Department of Justice’s Child Protection team following my call to the bar, and have been happily practising in this area for close to two years. Prior to becoming a lawyer I worked as an Adjudicator with Service Canada for three years.

Describe your current practice: In my current practice I represent the Minister of Community Services in child protection proceedings. I am in court regularly, and when I am not in court, I am preparing court documents or attending case meetings.

Describe your past and present involvement with the CBA: I have attended a number of events put on by the CBA. I recently attended the Women’s Forum Annual Trivia Night, and it was a fantastic evening. I really enjoyed the challenging trivia questions and fierce competition. I look forward to attending further events and becoming more involved with the CBA in the future.

What other activities and volunteer pursuits occupy your time?: I have been a board member with Business is Jammin’ since 2012. Business is Jammin’ is part of the Black Business Initiative, and its goal is to motivate black youth by developing and delivering programming which stresses the importance



of education and personal development. Year after year, Business is Jammin’ encourages youth province-wide to develop new skills and self-confidence by connecting leaders from the black business community with youth, by partnering with other organizations with similar goals, and by offering a very broad range of programming. The programming includes everything from business camps, to community gardens, to an architecture and planning program, and a new and very successful computer literacy program. I thoroughly enjoy giving back to the community through this organization. In my spare time, I love exploring our beautiful province through off-roading and camping. I am also passionate about supporting local businesses, including local farms, vineyards and breweries.

What words of wisdom do you have for new lawyers?: Being a lawyer is truly something that you practice—meaning that you will not be perfect, you will make mistakes and you will constantly learn something new. Seek advice and assistance from senior lawyers whenever you can, as they offer a wealth of knowledge and experience from which to draw. I have certainly benefitted from having access to a team of highly experienced lawyers, and seek their advice often. Also, your perspective as a new lawyer can offer something unique and valuable to law students and articling clerks, so be sure to reach out to those coming behind you and offer advice, or even an ear to listen, whenever you can.



SECTION MEETINGS



Remember the NSBS CPD Requirement

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society requires all practicing lawyers to create an annual professional development plan and commit it to writing (see Regulation 8.3.6). Each year, lawyers will be asked to indicate on their Annual Lawyer Report whether they have prepared and written their CPD Plan and implemented their plan from the previous year.

• For current information on CPD please go to [FAQs: NSBS CPD Requirement](#)

Rounding out the program year, below are some Section meetings not to be missed. Please watch your inbox for other meetings not yet advertised.

CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION LAW

Dates and Proposed Topics:

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 12 noon – 1:30pm
 Location: McInnes Cooper, 1969 Upper Water St., Suite 1300, Halifax, NS
 Topic: Spousal Sponsorship Applications – Recent Developments and Best Practices
 Speaker: Lori Hill, North Star Immigration Law Inc.

WOMEN'S FORUM

Dates and Proposed Topics:

Date & Time: Thursday, June 7, 2018, 8:30am – 9:30am
 Location: McInnes Cooper, 1969 Upper Water St., Suite 1300, Halifax, NS
 Topic: Annual Breakfast with the Bench
 Speakers: Honourable Justice Ann Smith, Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and Honourable Judge Amy Sakalauskas, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia

YOUNG LAWYERS

Dates and Proposed Topics:

Date & Time: Thursday, June 7, 2018, 5:30pm – 7:30pm
 Location: Antojo Tacos + Tequila, 1667 Argyle St., Halifax, NS
 Topic: End-of-Year Social

FAMILY LAW SECTION SUMMER SOCIAL

Dates and Proposed Topics:

Date & Time: Friday, June 15, 2018, 5:30pm – 8:00pm
 Location: The Home of Debi Conrad, Chester, NS

JOINT ELDER LAW AND WILLS, ESTATES & TRUSTS

Dates and Proposed Topics:

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 5:30pm – 8:00pm
 Location: McInnes Cooper, 1969 Upper Water St., Suite 1300, Halifax, NS
 Topic: The New Adult Capacity and Decision-Making Act: 6 Months In
 Speakers: Tammy Wohler, NS Legal Aid and Adriana Meloni, NS Department of Justice

LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT LAW

Dates and Proposed Topics:

Date & Time: Thursday, June 21, 2018, 5:30pm
 Location: The Prince George Hotel, 1725 Market St., Halifax, NS
 Topic: Dinner Meeting with the Labour Board of Nova Scotia
 Speakers: Karen Hollett, Chair and Diana Hartley, Chief Administrator, Nova Scotia Labour Board

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