

**VICTORIA BAR ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF AUGUST 21, 2007**

Meeting at the Sticky Wicket called to order by Kerry Simmons at 5:15 pm.

Members present:

Kerry Simmons	Kismet Bhandar
Renee Miller	Nisha Bathe
Jim Legh	Noel Lenaghan
Scott Farquhar	Carmen Rogers
Richard Stewart	Charlotte Salomon

1. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2007 meeting by Jim Legh, seconded by Carmen Rogers – carried.

2. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

- a. MEMBERSHIP – Kerry Simmons advised that the number of VBA members has not changed since the last meeting;
- b. PAST CORRESPONDENCE – Kerry Simmons presented a request from Patricia Lane and Jane Morley, Q.C. to distribute a notice to members of the bar via email or the newsletter. Ms. Lane and Ms. Morley are mediators who have noticed that fewer junior members of the bar are using mediation to resolve disputes and it is in the interest of the bar and of clients that there be incentives and encouragement to use mediation, particularly where cost-sensitivity is a significant factor in a file. Ms. Lane and Ms. Morley therefore propose to offer mediation to junior lawyers at a rate of \$150 per hour for their first mediation.

The majority of the executive viewed the notice as advertising rather than promotion of mediation and therefore declined to email it to the members or include it in the newsletter. If the advertising rate were paid, it could be included in the newsletter.

- c. Kerry will follow up with the invitation to Anne Fung, Q.C. to attend a VBA event.

3. **VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Scott Farquhar confirmed that he has received 3 nominations for the contribution to the law award but none for the volunteer award and the Pamela Murray award. Nominations are needed now. It was pointed out that each executive members likely knows one candidate for each of these awards and should put forward their nomination now.

4. **TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Kerry Simmons presented Michael Cooper’s report that the bank balance stands at \$13,125.75 as of August 21, 2007, and advised that \$200 would be paid out soon for the Softball tournament fields. Motion by Noel Lenaghan to approve the Treasurer’s report, seconded by Nisha Bathe, carried.

- 5. SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR:** Charlotte Salomon advised that:
- a. The Softball tournament (September 8) is now sold out with 8 teams entered. Motion by Jim Legh to use approximately \$500 for a barbeque rental and food for the event, seconded by Charlotte Salomon, carried. Trophies will be presented to the first place team only. Jim will assist Charlotte with the details of the tournament.
 - b. Golf Tournament (Sept 20) - Very few members have signed up. Scott commented that this is usual. Nisha Bathe will send an email to remind members about the golf tournament; and a similar notice will be in the newsletter. Stewart Title Guaranty has offered to contribute to the golf tournament. After discussion it was decided that a contribution of a door prize would be appropriate.
 - c. Roxanne sends her regrets. The AGM is November 1 at the Victoria Golf Club.
- 6. SPEAKERS SERIES:** Kismet Bhandar advised that there was nothing new to report. Renee Miller will take on this responsibility and work with Charlotte to contact the solicitors.
- 7. COURT LIASISON:** Kismet Bhandar reported that the renewal fees for 8 courtboxes are overdue and that 10 boxes will remain outstanding because the renewal dates for those boxes are different from the rest. Kismet will send a final notice. Kismet will be taking maternity leave and Renee Miller (who has just joined Carfra & Co.) will familiarize herself with Kismet's duties and will take over those roles in Kismet's absence.
- Meneka Giri is looking after the lockers and needs to report on the status of that project.
- Kerry reported that there are two upcoming courthouse meetings (Criminal Users on September 6 at 9:00 am and Civil Users at September 11 at 9:00). Renee will attend and Jim will note this in the newsletter.
- 8. WEBSITE AND EMAIL:** Nisha Bathe advised that there was nothing to report.
- 9. NEWSLETTER:** The August newsletter will go out by month end. Submissions must be given to Jim by next week.
- 10. BENCHER'S REPORT:** Richard Stewart reported that there is no benchers meeting in August.. He sought input with respect to the reaction to the MacLean's magazine article "Lawyers are rats".
- 11. CBA REPORT:** Carmen Rogers and Kerry Simmons advised there had not been any meetings since our last meeting but that Ken Walton was now installed as the president of the B.C. branch of the CBA.
- 12. UVIC REPORT:** No report.

13. NEW BUSINESS – Noel Lenaghan suggested an email or article in the newsletter about the shortage of support staff and the need for training. Noel will write a letter to the editor or some submission about the issue for the next newsletter.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn by Noel Lenaghan, seconded by Nisha Bathe, carried - the meeting adjourned at 5.53 pm.