

**VICTORIA BAR ASSOCIATION  
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF MARCH 20, 2007**

Meeting called to order by Kerry Simmons at 5:02 pm.

Members present:

Kerry Simmons	Richard Fyfe
James Legh	Nisha Bathe
Kathryn Berge	Carmen Rogers
Michael Cooper	Noel Lenaghan
Roxanne Helme	Andrew Petter
Kay Melbye	Scott Farquhar
Kismet Bhandar	Charlotte Salomon
Renee Miller	

1. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting by Kismet Bhandar, seconded by Noel Lenaghan – carried.

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- a. PAST CORRESPONDENCE – Kerry Simmons mentioned correspondence:
  - 1. From Matt Kirchner about the passing of his father David Kirchner;
  - 2. From Paul Gilbert seeking pro bono legal advice for the Canadian Association of Professionals with Disabilities, which request will be sent to the membership; and
  - 3. From Brenda Edwards relating to the VBA 's use of the Union Club for events. The Executive discussed the concerns and the use of private clubs for meetings. Kerry will respond to Brenda.
  
- b. VICTORIA CALL CEREMONIES – 2007 call dates are March 29, June 7, Sept. 27, and December 13. The VBA will supply the usual refreshments for the March call which involves 5 students.

3. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Scott Farquhar advised that:

- a. he would get a notice out regarding the deadline for award nominations; and
- b. the Presidents plaque was now installed in the trophy cabinet.

4. **TRESURER'S REPORT:**

- a. Michael Cooper reported that the bank balance stands at \$7,984.91 as of March 20, 2007, but that the balance reflected some of the revenue from the Battle of the Bands but none of the expenses.

- b. Roxanne requested that the request for coverage of expenses for Battle of the Bands be deferred to next meeting.

**5. SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR:**

- a. Battle of the Bands: This event was sold out and a great success. Blind Elmo of Victoria won the trophy for best band. Jim Legh designed and purchased the trophy and he will deliver the invoice for that trophy shortly;
- b. Charlotte Salomon confirmed that the Spring dinner is on April 19, 2007 and advised that she had a meeting about the Lawyers/Accountants golf tournament on March 21, 2007;
- c. Richard Fyfe advised that the Prospect Lake Golf Tournament will be on September 20, 2007 and that the curling bonspiel next year will be held on February 9, 2008; and
- d. Roxanne Helme presented the 2007 dinner calendar.

**6. NOTE OF NON-VBA EVENTS:** Roxanne Helme reminded members about the two non VBA events to honour Justices Melvin and Landers.

**7. WEBSITE AND EMAIL:** Nisha Bathe advised that the website is designed in a way that she cannot put the VBA minutes on the website herself and that we have to have the web consultants do that work, thus incurring costs.

**8. COURT LIASISON:** Kismet Bhandar has learned of the history of the Barristers' lockers from past president, Leslie Slater. Kismet will now discuss the lockers with courthouse security. We need a better system of locker assignments, response to repair requests, and keys.

**9. LAW DAY:** Kerry Simmons reported that next Law Day proceeds on April 21, 2007 and:

- a. She invited volunteers to contact Nisha as help is needed;
- b. She advised that some cast and costumers are still required for the fairy tale trial and those interested should contact Emily Drown; and
- c. She provided a notice about Law Day events for distribution in offices, buildings and to staff. This notice will be circulated via the email distribution list.

**10. NEWSLETTER:** Jim Legh reports that the next newsletter will come out at the end of April – submissions, information, news tidbits are invited.

**11. SPEAKERS SERIES:** Kismet Bhandar and Charlotte Salomon reported on the huge response to the series to date, advised of a complaint or two about who was allowed to attend and sought direction. Motion by Jim Legh that if an event is oversubscribed priority is to be given to VBA members, law students, and law faculty. Seconded by Noel Lenaghan, Carried.

**12. CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES:** Kismet Bhandar advised of several promotions being considered to promote blood donations by anyone connected to the legal profession. By way of background, the VBA agreed to become a sponsor of this program in 2003. Kismet was asked to come up with a

recommendation for our next meeting. Recognition of donors or firms with high per capita donations at VBA events is supported.

**13. AIDS VANCOUVER ISLAND:** Kerry Simmons advised that she had received an email requesting circulation of a notice from Aids Vancouver Island. After a discussion the consensus was not to circulate the notice, nor will we circulate notices of other charity events unless they have a strong connection to the legal profession (like Battle of the Bands, LOST, etc.)

**14. BENCHER'S REPORT:** Katherine Berge reported that:

- a. She and Richard Stewart had been invited to tour the law school at UVic and they did attend and have gained an appreciation for some of the things going on there. She believes it is important for UVic to have a voice with the Benchers;
- b. The small firm practice course has been mandatory since January of 2007 for any lawyer entering a firm of 4 or fewer lawyers. The course is a very well designed interactive online course that takes about 8 to 15 hours to complete. The emphasis is on office management, bookkeeping and trust accounting;
- c. The discipline complaints protocol is changing to emphasize early resolution by direct troubleshooting over the phone and to de-emphasize paperwork and delays;
- d. Self reporting protocols will be available for approximately 85% of the bar who will be able to complete lengthy accounting and trust reports. Some members will not qualify and will require the usual trust audits. Anyone who cannot self report may request the reasons from the Benchers and will be provided with a prompt response.

**15. CBA REPORT:** Kay Melbye reminded the executive of the many benefits of CBA membership including the emails advising of employment opportunities and the website which deals with marketing, workshops, lawyer referrals, discounts, and the legal marketing boot camp which is in Victoria this year.

Kerry noted that there are 4 vacancies for Victoria County representatives to the CBA open this year. Nominations close March 21.

**16. UVIC REPORT:** Andrew Petter:

- a. Advised that UVic students were doing very well in mooted competitions this year including:
  1. 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Sopinka Cup National Finals;
  2. 1<sup>st</sup> place at the North American finals of the Client Counselling Competition in Dallas. This team will attend the world championships in Sydney, Australia;
  3. 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Jessop. This team will attend the International competition in Washington, D.C.; and
  4. The results are not yet in from the team attending the International Arbitration mooted competition in Hong Kong.

- b. Advised that there was \$2 million in funding in place for the law library expansion project that was expected to cost approximately \$4 million;
- c. Advised that the Career Development Officer would in future have a full time assistant;
- d. Reminded members that the UVic summer programs are geared towards practitioners who are invited to participate. The 2 programs this summer are the Asian Law program in Victoria which runs for 6 weeks and the International Intellectual Property Law program in Oxford which has 2 day, 3 week, and 6 week offerings.
- e. Advised that Skit night is this Friday, Grad Dinner is next week, and Convocation begins at 2:00 pm on Friday June 8, 2007.

**17. NEW BUSINESS** – Roxanne Helme advised that Ron MacIsaac has donated 2 vases – one for Melvin J. and one for the VBA. Katherine Berge invited members to contemplate making the VBA president's position a 2 year term. Kerry reminded members that the next meeting would precede the Spring Dinner at the Fireside Grill on Thursday April 19, 2007 and there is no meeting on April 17, 2007.

**18. ADJOURNMENT** – the meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.