

**VICTORIA BAR ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2007**

Meeting at the Barrister's Lounge called to order by Kerry Simmons at 5:05 pm.

Members present:

Kerry Simmons	Michael Cooper
Renee Miller	Nisha Bathe
Jim Legh	Noel Lenaghan
Roxanne Helme	Carmen Rogers
Brooke MacLeod	Charlotte Salomon
Menaka Giri	Andrew Petter
Katherine Berge	Neil Campbell

1. **AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda by Nisha Bathe, seconded by Brooke MacLeod – carried.
2. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2007 meeting by Nisha Bathe, seconded by Jim Legh – carried.
3. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Kerry Simmons:
 - a. introduced Professor Neil Campbell and advised that he would be making a presentation;
 - b. advised that she has received a few more membership applications from transfers and people changing firms
 - c. sought feedback with respect to the VBA holding an informal social opportunity for small firms and law students to meet. The feedback was positive and Kerry will pursue the matter further with Jennifer Moroskat at UVic.
 - d. advised that the October call ceremony would involve 15 students and she asked for additional representation from the VBA to attend – Charlotte Salomon and Meneka Giri volunteered;
 - e. reminded members that the AGM would be on November 1, 2007 at the Golf Club and that the executive should consider whether or not they want to continue and promote the executive to other interested VBA members; and
 - f. the VBA executive meetings will be on October 16 and November 20. There will not be an executive meeting prior to the AGM on November 1.
4. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Kerry Simmons advised that Scott Farquhar needs nominations for the awards to be presented at the AGM and he needs those nominations as soon as possible. The Awards Committee will bring their recommendation for the recipients to the October Executive Meeting.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Michael Cooper reported that there was little activity since the last report and advised that the bank balance stands at \$13,496.99 as of September 18,

2007. Motion by Noel Lenaghan to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Charlotte Salomon, carried.

6. **SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR:** Charlotte Salomon advised that:
 - a. The Softball tournament was a huge success with 8 teams entered and with approximately 150 people in attendance. The barbeque was very well received and it made the event more collegial. Mulligan Tam and Pearson contributed \$161.50 for drinks for the event and as a result the event essentially broke even. Charlotte delivered detailed financial information about the event to Michael Cooper. Woodward & Co. fielded the winning team for the second consecutive year. One team was turned away this year because an even number of teams was required, but 10 teams could be accommodated next year.
 - b. Golf Tournament (Sept 20) - 43 members have signed up which is more than usual. Charlotte and Jim Leigh will try to finalize tee times after the meeting. ICBC has donated additional prizes.
 - c. Roxanne Helme reminded members that the AGM is November 1 at the Victoria Golf Club.

7. **SPEAKERS SERIES:** Charlotte Salmon advised that there was nothing new to report.

8. **COURT LIASISON:** Meneka Giri expects to be able to have the barrister's lockers lists sorted out by the end of October. Some members are looking for lockers and some have turned in their keys. She will next speak to security about getting into lockers which are no longer used by their previous users.

Kerry reported that she attended the Civil Court Users Group meeting on September 11, 2007 and was advised that e-filing by law firms will be mandatory in 2008. She has requested an informational sign on the barrister's locker room doors to provide access information to out of town counsel. Will Sherman advised that nighttime users of courthouse facilities should be aware of the increased "partying" going on outside the courthouse on the grounds. Members should be on greater alert for their personal safety.

No one attended the Criminal Court Users Group meeting on September 6 but Charlotte Salomon reported that someone who attended discovered that the courthouse building is a building that would not be safe in an earthquake.

9. **WEBSITE AND EMAIL:** Nisha Bathe advised that there was nothing to report.

10. **NEWSLETTER:** The August went out and there were no complaints.

11. **BENCHER'S REPORT:** Katherine Berge advised that the bencher's AGM would be held on Tuesday September 25, 2007 and she encouraged any interested members to attend. Katherine advised of two reports received by the benchers at their last meeting as follows:
 - a. A report on the complaints department indicated that the department was running more smoothly and efficiently and that training programs were

paying off. The report indicates that 60% of complainants were happy with the results and were impressed with the thoroughness of the process. 99% of members were satisfied with the process.

- b. A report on the efficacy of the in house custodianship of dysfunctional practices indicated that:
 - i) The in house program has resulted in a 50% reduction in the cost of the program. The average cost of a custodianship was \$100,000.00;
 - ii) The average custodianship now lasts 1.6 years as opposed to an average of 3.7 years under the old system;
 - iii) The in house system brings more resources to bear and in some cases provides ability to deal with unusual circumstances (rat infested file boxes stored outdoors) which may be beyond the expertise of a practitioner.

12. CBA REPORT: Kerry Simmons advised that the CBA AGM takes place on Saturday, September 29 which is the same day as the first Provincial Council meeting of the year.

13. UVIC REPORT: Andrew Petter reported that the law school is in full motion with:

- a. 110 new students and 12 grad students attending;
- b. The BC Employers wine and cheese reception on Monday September 24, 2007;
- c. Chancellor's Reception on October 2 where the VBA Award will be presented
- d. The CBA-UVic mentoring program will kick off on October 11;
- e. Mooting preparations under way;
- f. Multiple staff changes; and
- g. Fundraising efforts with potential Law Foundation matching for the moot program and for capital projects including the repurposing of the law library and the large lecture hall room 159. Andrew introduced Neil Campbell – Law librarian.

Neil Campbell presented the attached report and invited input from the local bar with respect to any spaces that could be included that may serve the bar and the public in general. Motion by Jim Legh to indicate the VBA's support of the repurposing that is underway, seconded by Brooke MacLeod, carried.

14. NEW BUSINESS – Michael Cooper will check his records to see if he can find out who repaired furniture in the barrister's lounge in the past. One couch needs repair. Kerry will arrange for the repair.

15. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn by Noel Lenaghan, seconded by Nisha Bathe, carried - the meeting adjourned at 6.03 pm.