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Welcome to the Summer 2006 edition of the Paralegal Press. The Spring has been quite eventful for the BCPA. The Annual General Meeting was held in April. The AGM greeted new directors while we said goodbye to those who have been with us for a very long time, in particular Jasbir Bains. Jasbir was the BCPA President for more than 10 years. The BCPA extends a big thank you to Jasbir for many years of dedicated service and hard work, we wish you all the best in the future!

In May, the BPCA & CAP hosted our most successful dinner to date! See the photographs on pages 7, 8 & 9 - you may be in one of them!

Enjoy the sun, your holidays and the summer edition! See you in the Fall.

In This Issue:

Preparing for Judicial Case Conference	3
President's Message	4
BCPA/CAP Spring Dinner	6-9
The Value of Volunteering	11-12
Expanding the Role of Paralegals: The Law Society's Next Step	14-15

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WELCOME

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The BCPA would like to welcome each of the new members
your support is greatly appreciated.
We look forward to meeting you in the future.

NOTICE

The opinions expressed in the *Paralegal Press* are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the BC Paralegal Association (BCPA). BCPA cannot assume liability for errors or omissions.

If you are interested in re-printing any of the articles in this newsletter please contact Christine Uhrmann or Andrea MacDonald.

Family Law Paralegals: How to Prepare for a Judicial Case Conference

On June 15, 2006, I attended a CLE seminar entitled "Family Law for Paralegals". The seminar covered a variety of topics; However, the one topic which I found particularly interesting was "Preparing your Lawyer for Judicial Case Conferences" ("JCC"), presented by Master Alan Donaldson of the Supreme Court of BC. The following is a synopsis of the valuable points I learned from Master Donaldson's presentation.

Master Donaldson indicated that he would like to have a one-page, point form "Brief" given to him at the JCC. Included in this Brief should be:

- the parties date of marriage;
- age and dates of birth of the children;
- with whom the children reside;
- list of assets (unless assets are not an issue); and
- a proposal for the resolution of any of the issues in dispute between the parties. According to Master Donaldson, coming to a JCC with a proposal allows the parties to break down barriers and begin the JCC on a positive note towards resolution.

Master Donaldson stated that referring to the parties as "plaintiff" and "defendant" in the Brief is not helpful. Rather, refer to the parties by their names or as "mother" and "father".

The Brief should be succinct and easy to follow so that the Master will not have to memorize all the names, dates and figures referred to by the lawyers at the JCC. The Brief can be prepared for the lawyer by a paralegal from a review of the file materials or an interview with the client.

Additionally, your lawyer should be attending the JCC with a list of items that he/she wishes from the other party; i.e.) a List of Documents or access schedules. Your lawyer should also be realistic in his/her deadlines for the receipt of such items and should be prepared to produce the same items from his/her client within the same deadlines. The paralegal will generally have the file in good working order prior to the JCC and will have all deadlines diarized prior to and after the JCC.

It is also helpful if you can send your Brief to the other side the day before the JCC, which enables both sides to come to the JCC prepared and ready for an open, focused dialogue.

As of July 1, 2006, it is mandatory that both parties file Form 89 Financial Statements prior to attending the JCC. The JCC may proceed without a filed Form 89; however, a Master can award costs against a party who does not file a Form 89 prior to the JCC. If you have not received a Form 89 from the other party, and you have a date set for the JCC, write a letter to the other side requesting same and indicate you will seek costs if the party does not provide it prior to the JCC.

Finally, your lawyer should have their PDA available in order to check available dates for the settlement conference and trial dates, which are set at a JCC. Using a cell phone to call the office to get available dates is frowned upon by Masters.

For additional detail and information please refer to the June 15, 2006 "Family Law for Paralegals" materials, available through the CLE Society of BC.

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President's Message



I am proud to report that the BC Paralegal Association ("BCPA") has maintained a membership base of over 350 members for the past three years. Although our membership numbers are strong, our goal is to continue to increase our membership to include nearly every paralegal in our province. Of our total members, student memberships are at an all time high; with renewals to regular voting membership, by graduating students, a great indication that the BCPA, and the profession, will benefit in the long term. We also have directors located in Kelowna and Nanaimo, both of whom are working hard to raise awareness of the BCPA and the paralegal profession in their regions.

In order to truly make the BCPA a province-wide association, the Board of Directors is making the update of our website (www.bcparalegalassociation.com) a priority for 2006, with the goal of having the website serve as our primary resource for members. One of the key components to be added to the website is a message board, which will allow all members to communicate with each other throughout the province. If there are any other features you would like to see on our website, please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas and suggestions.

At our Annual General Meeting in April, long serving director Jasbir Bains retired from the Board of Directors. Jasbir served on the board for over 10 years and held the office of President for more that half of his tenure. Effective June 16, 2006, Jerena Tobiasen also retired from the Board of Directors. Jerena has been dedicated to our profession for nearly 20 years during which time she held the office of President, among many other positions. I wish to thank both Jasbir and Jerena for all of their hard work over the years to Association and to our profession; we wish them both a well deserved retirement from the BCPA. Currently, there are ten directors on the BCPA Board of Directors. We are a board of volunteers and as such we are always looking for assistance and contributions from our members. If you wish to assist your Board, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Recently, we co-hosted a spring dinner with the Canadian Association of Paralegals at the Terminal City Club. This dinner was very well attended by over 100 members. The feedback from the attendees was great and many are looking forward to our Autumn Dinner, to be held in the third week of October. Aside from our dinners, we continue to publish, quarterly, *The Paralegal Press*. This year we have introduced *The Paralegal Press* in a new format with colour. We are very proud of the current newsletter, but are always interested in making it better! If you have any suggestions for articles or features, please contact one of the newsletter committee members, Christine Uhrmann or Andrea McDonald.

I am grateful to all of the members for their continued support of the BCPA. I also look forward to working with a dedicated group of directors to improve our Association, the profession and paralegalism in our province, in 2006 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Kim
President,
BC Paralegal Association

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2006 BCPA / CAP SPRING DINNER

On May 17, 2006, the BCPA and CAP co-hosted the Annual Spring Dinner. This year's dinner was held at the beautiful Terminal City Club, the attendees were treated to a scrumptious buffet which included something to satisfy all taste buds!

The focus of the 2006 Spring Dinner was the development of the paralegal profession and employment opportunities. The attendees were provided with valuable information regarding the role of the paralegal and the evolution of employment opportunities within Canada and British Columbia by guest speakers Shannon Quinney of ZSA Legal Recruitment and Betty Garbutt of the Legal Freelance Centre. In addition, BCPA and CAP director Jerena Tobiasen discussed the benefits of membership in a professional association. You can read a summary of Jerena's presentation on page 11.

The Spring Dinner was a huge success due, in part, to the generous support of our sponsors. We thank each of them very much for their generosity and continued support of the BCPA and CAP.

PREMIER



PLATINUM



DIAMOND



SILVER



BRONZE



Enjoy the photographs of the dinner and the door prize recipients in the following pages.



Guest Speaker – Jerena Tobiasen



Guest Speaker Betty Garbutt of the Legal
Freelance Centre with door prize winner
Eunice McDonald



Shannon Quinney of ZSA Legal
Recruitment with door prize winner
Naomi Ivanic



Johanna Mustapic of Triage Data Solutions with
door prize winner Sharon Brubacher