



# Volunteer Appreciation



**Dino Bottos**  
DePoe & Bottos

Dino Bottos graduated from law school at the University of Alberta in 1989. A year later, he was called to the British Columbia bar, where he practiced law for 2 years before making his way back to Edmonton. With the goal of practising as a barrister, and with a helping hand from his oral advocacy professor, Alexander D. Pringle QC, Dino began his practice as a criminal defense lawyer.

Dino is now a partner at DePoe & Bottos and is not only a skilled, experienced, and professional lawyer, but he is also a dedicated, volunteer for LESA with a passion for sharing his knowledge and experience with others in the legal profession. Dino's most recent contributions to LESA include being a distinguished member of the faculty for both LESA's Criminal Advocacy Experts and Criminal Law 25 programs.

## **How did you become interested in law?**

I always enjoyed courtroom drama in movies and television – it was the most intriguing type of drama for me as a kid growing up, and I always admired what a courtroom lawyer did – I thought it was exciting. I was very lucky to pursue that in criminal law, which I found to be very important and the type of work that would get me into a court room on a daily basis.

## **What do you enjoy most about the legal profession?**

Making a difference in people's lives on a day-to-day basis. You are meeting clients – some of which are in deep crisis and some of which are simply misunderstood – it's your job and responsibility to do

your best for them. I like standing up for the little guy and making an appreciable difference for that person in the face of adversity.

## **What does a day in the life of Dino look like?**

During the fall and spring terms, I teach criminal law and procedure to first-year law school students at the U of A then I go to court and practice as a criminal defense lawyer. What I find rewarding and exciting is that I teach something about the law on a Monday and then walk into court on a Tuesday and argue that very same point of law before the court. My practice involves a mixture of legal theory with reality of the court room.

## **What motivates you to volunteer?**

I think that most lawyers, when they get to a senior level, want to give back and teach things that they have learned over the years. When someone asks me to teach what I know, I find that to be an honour.

## **Have you had any particularly memorable volunteering experiences with LESA?**

I've had 2 occasions this year to volunteer for LESA. The first was being called upon to speak about expert testimony in criminal cases [Criminal Advocacy Experts]. The second was giving a lecture to practitioners both in Calgary and in Edmonton on the most important cases with respect to the admissibility of statements by accused persons to the police [Criminal Law 25]. Dealing with other practitioners in the field and judges from the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench helped me get a sense that there is a true desire on the part of practitioners to teach what they know and on the part of other practitioners to attend and learn about things that they're interested in.

*“When you're called upon to volunteer, consider it an honour and give it your best effort ... it will be very rewarding for yourself and others will get a great deal out of it.”*



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