

Volunteer Appreciation



Fulvio M. Durante
Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP

Fulvio has been at Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP since 1994, and, although he planned to be a civil litigator after graduating with his LLB from the University of Alberta, he now enjoys a business and estate-oriented practice. Fulvio is actively engaged in many areas of the profession: he has instructed at the University of Calgary Law School, he coordinates DBB's in-house training program, he sits as a board member for the Collaborative Estate and Trust Lawyers Society of Alberta, he is an appointed executive member of the CBA's Wills and Trusts subsection, and last (but certainly not least!), he has been a faithful LESA volunteer for many years. In the past six months, Fulvio has served on the planning committee for LESA's new Estate Administration practice manual and participated in the CPLED Program, providing students with feedback on the learning exercises they completed in their Interviewing and Advising module.

How has your career evolved over the years to lead you to your current business and estate-oriented practice?

I left law school convinced I was destined for a career in litigation, and that is what I did for the first few years. I was lucky enough to be exposed to all areas of the law as a young lawyer and realized that litigation was not for me. My practice evolved, slowly at first, into what it is now.

What do you most enjoy about working in the legal profession?

It is rarely boring and, even after 20 something years, there is always a new puzzle to solve. In my

practice, my clients are often doing exciting things like starting a new business, and I enjoy helping them through the process. On the estate side, the emotions are usually different, but it is satisfying to do my part to lessen the burden.

What are your biggest influences?

I have been very lucky to spend my entire legal career at the same firm, working with some great lawyers. As a new lawyer, I was able to spend a great deal of time working with Jack Dunphy QC who taught me the importance of giving back. Many of my current partners (most of whom are much older than me) have been instrumental in my development as well.

What motivates you to volunteer?

The legal profession has been very good to me, and I do feel it is important to give back when possible. The energy and enthusiasm of each crop of new lawyers entering the profession is exciting to be around, even if it does remind me I am getting up there in years.

In addition to giving back to the profession, do you think that volunteering benefits you and your practice?

Absolutely. I have always felt that the more well-rounded you are as a lawyer, and a person, the better you are at helping your clients.

What are you looking forward to this summer?

I am very lucky to be on sabbatical this summer for 2 months. Every few years it is great to take some time to get away, recharge, and spend some quality time with the family – and maybe swing a golf club or two.

“Never pass up an opportunity to try something new, and don't take yourself too seriously.”



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In addition to keeping current with developments in the field, the benefits of acting as a volunteer for LESA include recognition by the profession, social networking opportunities, and being able to focus on your expertise while expanding your skill set.

To volunteer, contact Dawn Ofner:

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If your name has been missed, please contact us.