



# Volunteer Appreciation

LEGAL EDUCATION SOCIETY OF ALBERTA



## Tina Huizinga

Huizinga Di Toppa  
Coles & Layton

### FEATURE VOLUNTEER

After graduating from the University of Alberta with her BA in 1996 and her LLB in 2000, Tina was well on her way to fulfilling her lifelong goal of becoming a lawyer. Over the course of her career, Tina has appeared at all levels of Court in Alberta and has practiced primarily in the areas of family law and civil litigation. While her ideal dream job has changed over time, her dedication to the profession and her commitment to volunteering has remained steadfast. In addition to the countless hours of support that Tina has provided to LESA over the years, she has also given back to the profession by working with the Habitat for Humanity Legal Build, teaching Techniques in Negotiation at the University of Alberta, and volunteering at the Edmonton Community Legal Centre (amongst other things!). In the past six months, Tina has generously contributed her time and talent to LESA as an author for the 2014 Family Law Practice Manual update, as a faculty member at our Child Support seminar, and by providing feedback during learning exercises for the CPLED Oral Advocacy module.

#### What drew you to the legal profession and the practice of family law in particular?

What drew me to law is an impossible question to answer: it's what I've always wanted to do. I said that when I was 5 to my parents, who were a bit baffled by the concept. I wanted to be a Crown Prosecutor. That was the be all and end all goal. But when I was looking for articles the Crown didn't want to hire me, so I went to a general firm and did some family law there. I found that I was more

interested in family law than anything else, but, because of the drama associated with family law, I didn't want to pare off the civil litigation at that point. I wasn't sure how much of the drama I could handle. Then eventually, as I got to do more and more of it, I lessened and lessened all of the civil litigation that I was doing and just focused on family law. I think part of why I enjoy it is the instant gratification of solving a problem. That's one of the things I didn't like about civil litigation: the files took so long to get done. I also enjoy dealing with individuals, instead of companies, and getting to solve a problem for a person.

#### What advice would you pass on to a newly called lawyer?

Get really good at time organization, and be able to block off time for personal life. It's important to have life, not just law. But also recognize that what you're doing, while it's just a file to you, it's a huge deal for your client. Recognize the gravity of what it is that you're doing for people. Those are the two things that people should keep in mind.

#### What is the most significant benefit of volunteering?

My own continuing legal education. Writing papers or participating in seminars, [such as] the Intensive Advocacy program, reminds me of the right way to do things. As time goes on I think we tend to get a little bit lazy, because we're used to doing things a certain way and we're used to citing the same cases. Volunteering forces me to update my research and update my skills and remind myself of the things I shouldn't be doing. It makes me a better lawyer.

*“Whatever it is that you're passionate about, find some outlet and take some time every year to volunteer. It returns itself to you tenfold.”*

The generous contributions of time, talent, and energy from all of our volunteers make every Legal Education Society of Alberta program and resource a great success. We appreciate the work of our volunteers and their service to the profession. Contact Dawn Ofner at dawn.ofner@lesa.org to volunteer.

Visit our website at [LESA.org](http://LESA.org)



## OUR VOLUNTEERS

*thank you*

Darryl Aarbo  
Bill Aaron QC  
Neena Ahluwalia QC  
Ayla Akgungor  
Sam Amelio QC  
Victoria Archer  
Paule Armeneau QC  
Rob Armstrong  
Catina Aronson  
Mark Asbell QC  
Abram Averbach  
Chad Babiuk  
Michelle Bailey  
Deborah Baradziej  
Cyndy Barber  
Wayne Barkauskas  
Kevin Barr  
Michael Bates  
Pam Bell  
Prof. Catherine Bell  
Francoise Belzil  
Gay Bennis  
Lorenz Berner  
John Bessemer  
Katherine Betts-Geddes  
Aaron Bickman  
Hon. Justice M.B. Bielby  
Susan Billington QC  
Katherine Bilson  
Lucille Birkett QC  
Robert Black  
Max Blitt QC  
Sophia Blumin  
Geoff Boddy  
Pierre Boileau QC  
Lori Bonnett  
Heather Bonnycastle QC  
Frank Bosscha  
Adam Brener  
Sharon Buckley-Tkach  
Dane Bullerwell  
Everett Bunnell QC  
Judy Burke  
Melissa Burkett  
Karin Buss  
Tracy Canton  
Tannis Carlson  
Nancy Carruthers

Rose Carter QC  
Prof. Peter Carver  
Deni Cashin  
Arman Chak  
Suchetna Channan  
Shad Chapman  
Gabriel Chen  
Don Cherniosky  
Spencer Chimuk  
Jim Chronopoulos  
Dan Chubb  
Colleen Connolly  
Melanie Cooke  
Steven Cooper  
Hon. Justice J.E.L. Côté  
Troy Couillard  
Jordan Crerar  
Wendi Crowe  
Deborah Dalton  
Patricia Daunais QC  
Wanda Dawson  
Anne de Villars QC  
Sandeep Dhir  
Joshua Dial  
Cynthia Dickins  
Melina Djulancic  
Rhoda Dobler  
Michelle Doyle QC  
Fulvio Durante  
James Eamon QC  
Ellen Embury  
Rick Ewasuik QC  
Lindsay Ewens-Jones  
Jon Faulds QC  
Kevin Feehan QC  
Fred Fenwick QC  
Sheri Ferguson  
Cathy Farnell  
Alisha Figley  
Patrick Fitzpatrick  
John Frame  
Jocelyn Frazer  
Darren Freeston  
Krista Frohlich  
Michelle Gallagher  
Melanie Gaston  
Neil Gower QC  
Emilian Groch

April Grosse  
Shannon Gullberg  
Kevin Haldane  
Donna Hallett  
Mike Harris  
Robert Harvie QC  
Bryan Haynes  
Patrick Heinsen  
Denise Hendrix  
Sandra Hildebrand  
Bernette Ho  
Oliver Ho  
Shauna Holmes  
David Holub  
Michael Hoosein  
Tracey Howell  
Tina Huizinga  
Shanna Hunka  
John Hunter QC  
Timothy Hurlburt QC  
Laura Inglis  
David Jardine  
Peter Jasper  
Warren Jennings  
Carsten Jensen QC  
Moosa Jiwaji  
Simon Johnson  
Victoria Jones  
Sherry Kachur QC  
Jeff Kahane  
Olga Kary  
Samantha Kernahan  
Jacqueline Kibsey  
Robert Kiddine  
Brian Kiers  
Jim Kindrake  
Sarah King-D'Souza QC  
Gary Kirk  
Kimberly Kirk  
Michael Kirk  
Anne Kirker QC  
Renee Konoptopsky  
Alex Kooiman  
Prof. Jennifer Koshan  
Randy Kott  
Michael Kraus QC  
Leanne Krawchuk  
Laurie Kiedrowski

**Legal Education Society of Alberta**

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

thank you

Brad Kudar  
Vincent Kurata  
Michael Kwiatkowski  
Bernadette LaBrie  
Mathieu LaFleche  
Percy Lee  
Peter Linder QC  
Corinne MacCarthy  
Janice MacDonald  
Lois MacLean  
Hon. J. Major CC, QC  
Steve Mandziuk QC  
Cristian Manucci  
Gillian Marriott QC  
Lucretia Martenet  
Aaron Martens  
Tim Mavko  
Karim Mawani  
Chris McAviney  
Pamela McCluskey  
Janet McCready  
Jason McCulloch  
Bobbi Jo McDevitt  
John McGee  
Matthew McHugh  
Ian McKay  
Ross McLeod QC  
Dan McPherson  
Kent McSporrان  
Scot Menzies  
David Mercer  
Cori Lynne Mercier  
Jennifer Miller QC  
Lindsey Miller  
Ileen Moore  
Alexis Moulton  
Lindsay Mullen  
Brad Mustard  
Derek Nash  
Dawn Nelson  
Prof. Erin Nelson  
Chadwick Newcombe  
Patrick Nugent  
Ryan O'Fee  
Thomas O'Leary  
Marcus Ostrowerka  
Krysta Ostwald  
John Pak

Patricia Paradis  
Shaun Partridge  
James Peacock QC  
Prof. Steven Penney  
Michelle Pidhirney  
Jamie Polley  
Christine Pratt  
Murray Pritchard  
Ravi Prithipaul QC  
Patricia Quinton-Campbell  
Aida Rafie  
Robert Rakochev  
Richard Rand QC  
Balji Rattan  
Mark Raven-Jackson  
Darren Reed  
Michele Reeves  
Prof. Wayne Renke  
Kathleen Reyes  
Andrea Riccio  
Rita Richardson  
Marianne Rivard  
Sharon Roberts  
John Roggeveen  
Wendy Rollins QC  
Hon. Justice J.M. Ross  
Jonathan Rossall QC  
Dragana Sanchez Glowicki  
Adam Sanderman  
Wayne Schafer QC  
Jeremy Schick  
Cara Schlenker  
Darwin Schofer  
Robert Schuett  
Jeffrey Selby  
Joshua Selby  
Steven Shafir  
Sabri Shawa QC  
William Shores QC  
Gregory Sim  
Stephen Smith  
Riley Snider  
Dale Spackman QC  
Richard Spelliscy  
Craig Steinberg  
Tracey Stock  
Andrea Swabuk-Moe  
Jim Swanson

André Szaszkievicz  
Desiree Tan  
David Taniguchi  
Alexis Teasdale  
Sylvia Tensfeldt  
Don Tettmar  
Crystal Thompson  
Patricia Tolppanen  
Maia Tomljanovic  
Cindy Turner  
Danielle Umrysh  
Richard Verhaeghe  
Prof. D'Arcy Vermette  
Audrey Wakeling QC  
Peggy Walden  
Brian Wallace  
Prof. Jonnette Watson Hamilton  
Sandra Weber  
Karin Webster  
Jeff Weidman  
Kathy Whitburn  
Scott Whitby  
Nathan Whitling  
Michelle Williamson  
Hugh Willis  
Andrew Wilson  
Chelsea Wilson  
Patricia Wilson  
Ray Wong  
Matthew Woodley  
George Wowk  
Linda Wright  
Prof. Moin Yahya  
Anthony Young QC  
Pat Yuzwenko

*Thank you to all of our  
volunteers who help make each  
and every Legal Education  
Society of Alberta program and  
resource a great success!*

**LESA.org**

Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter!

## meet OUR STAFF

Jennifer Flynn  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Carolyn Bernardin  
**INFORMATION SPECIALIST**

Courtney Black  
**EDUCATION ASSISTANT**

Bronwyn Connolly  
**EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

Craig Edhart  
**INTEGRATION ASSISTANT**

Kathy Fortier  
**MEETING AND RELATIONS  
COORDINATOR**

Daniel García  
**DIRECTOR OF INTEGRATION**

Chris Hayek  
**EDUCATION ASSISTANT**

Ashley Iachetta  
**STUDENT COORDINATOR**

Karen McDougall  
**COUNSEL**

Holly Miller  
**ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST**

Dawn Ofner  
**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

Christine Sanderman  
**COUNSEL**

Sophia Stauffer  
**EDUCATION ASSISTANT**

Sky Sun  
**EDUCATION ASSISTANT**

Janette Sztym  
**EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

Renee Vander Meulen  
**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

Charlene Waines  
**STAFF LAWYER**

## meet OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel T. Gallagher QC (Chair)  
**BENNETT JONES LLP**

Aaron D. Martens (Vice-Chair)  
**DUNPHY BEST BLOCKSOM LLP**

Jennifer Ruttan (Treasurer)  
**RUTTAN BATES**

Prof. Tamara Buckwold  
(Past Chair)  
**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

Prof. Catherine A. Brown  
**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

Kathryn Chisholm QC  
**CAPITAL POWER CORPORATION**

Stephanie Dobson  
**MERIDIAN LAW GROUP**

Michelle Gallagher  
**PATRIOT LAW GROUP**

Prof. Lois Gander QC  
**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

Ken H. Lewis QC  
**TORY LEWIS ABELLS LLP**

Gillian Marriott QC  
**PRO BONO LAW ALBERTA**

Michael Mestinsek  
**STIKEMAN ELLIOT LLP**

Dena Mitchell  
**FINNING (CANADA), A DIVISION  
OF FINNING INTERNATIONAL INC.**

Walter Pavlic QC  
**MACPHERSON LESLIE & TYERMAN LLP**

Sandra Petersson  
**ALBERTA LAW REFORM INSTITUTE**

Sabri Shawa QC  
**JENSEN SHAWA SOLOMON DUGUID  
HAWKES LLP**

Suzanne Thomas  
**FIELD LLP**

Don Thompson QC  
**THE LAW SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**

**Judicial Liaisons**

Hon. Justice P. A. Rowbotham  
**ALBERTA COURT OF APPEAL**

Hon. Justice S. D. Hillier  
**COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA**

Hon. Judge K. J. Jordan  
**PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Legal Education Society of Alberta is always looking for volunteers. There are many ways you can get involved: CPLED learning group facilitator, CPLED Face-to-Face facilitator or evaluator, CLE seminar chair or faculty, author, reviewer, editor, blogger, online course contributor, script writer, or actor.

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:

dawn.ofner@lesa.org 780.969.3559 1.800.282.3900 ext. 3559 (toll free in AB)

*If you volunteered for us between July and December, 2014, please ensure your name is on the list. If your name has been missed, please contact us.*

