

# *Women Lawyers Forum*

## *Connecting Women in the Law*

### **Women Lawyers Forum Goes National!**

**SPRING 2005**

*by Sandy Jakab, Secretary/Treasurer, Women Lawyers Forum*

We are very excited to report that the Immediate Past President of the Women Lawyers Forum, Kerry-Lynne Findlay, Q.C. successfully took the Women Lawyers Forum to a national level at the Mid-Winter Meeting of the Canadian Bar Association on February 19. Kerry spoke eloquently to National Council about the success the Forum has enjoyed in B.C. and our strong sense that the Forum can serve the needs of women lawyers across the country. Arlene Huggins of Toronto, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Equity, seconded Kerry's motion. Arleen explained to Council that the mandates of the Equity Committee and the Women Lawyers Forum are complementary, not overlapping. Other speakers in favour of the motion included Parker McCarthy, Q.C. (Second Vice-President of the CBA, National) and Meg Shaw (Vice President of the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Bar Association).

The first meeting of the National Women Lawyers Forum will take place in Vancouver in conjunction with the Canadian Legal Conference (August 14-16 at the Vancouver Convention Centre).

Please consider whether you know of any women lawyers in other provinces who may be interested in knowing more about the national Forum. We'd like to send them some brief information on the Forum. Please [e-mail your suggestions to me](#) or phone me at 604-899-6869.

#### **Get Connected!**

Forum membership is open to CBA members only. For membership information call the CBABC office at 604-687-3404 or visit the [CBABC website](#) for a Section enrolment form.

We hope you'll make the Forum your meeting place of choice. Ask your friends to join and we'll see you in the coming months.

### *What's Inside*

**Mentoring Program Full For This Year** – *See Mentoring, page 3*

**Communications Strengths Workshop** – *See Education, page 3*

**First Women Lawyers Forum Potluck** – *See Networking and Events, page 2*

**New Women Lawyers Forum Logo and Listserv** – *See Communications, page 2*



We welcome and encourage women lawyers into our membership. Please feel free to contact:

## Executive

**Jennifer Conkie, Chair**  
604-662-7544 [jconkie@conkie-law.ca](mailto:jconkie@conkie-law.ca)

**Stella Frame, Vice-Chair**  
604-647-4111 [sframe@boughton.ca](mailto:sframe@boughton.ca)

**Sandy Jakab, Secretary/Treasurer**  
604-899-6869 [sjakab@bcsc.bc.ca](mailto:sjakab@bcsc.bc.ca)

**Kerry-Lynne Findlay, QC, Past Chair**  
604-609-3066 [kfindlay@wgmlaw.com](mailto:kfindlay@wgmlaw.com)

## Committee Chairs

**Suzan D. Beattie, Co-Chair**  
Education Committee  
604-990-9416 [suzan@suzanbeattie.com](mailto:suzan@suzanbeattie.com)

**Colleen Cattell, Co-Chair**  
Education Committee  
604-669-7705 [colleen@mckechne.bc.ca](mailto:colleen@mckechne.bc.ca)

**Gal Dor, Co-Chair**  
Mentoring Committee  
604-631-3392 [gal.dor@blakes.com](mailto:gal.dor@blakes.com)

**Kay Melbye, Co-Chair**  
Communications Committee  
250-595-2220 [km@brownhenderson.bc.ca](mailto:km@brownhenderson.bc.ca)

**Michelle Pockey, Co-Chair**  
Events Planning Committee  
604-643-2950 [mbpockey@davis.ca](mailto:mbpockey@davis.ca)

**Renee Saklikar, Co-Chair**  
Communications Committee  
604-540-1105 [rsaklikar@shaw.ca](mailto:rsaklikar@shaw.ca)

**Valerie Shapiro, Co-Chair**  
Events Planning Committee  
604-739-3726 [vshapiro@imag.net](mailto:vshapiro@imag.net)

**Debra Van Ginkel, Co-Chair**  
Mentoring Committee  
604-642-5658 [dvanginkel@wgmlaw.com](mailto:dvanginkel@wgmlaw.com)

## Members At Large

**Leandre Rupert-Bailey**  
250-614-2601  
[Leandre.RupertBailey@gems1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leandre.RupertBailey@gems1.gov.bc.ca)

**Susan Kurtz**  
250-354-1881 [susankurtz@telus.net](mailto:susankurtz@telus.net)

## Law Society Liaison

**Margaret Ostrowski, QC**  
604-264-1208 [ostrolaw@shaw.ca](mailto:ostrolaw@shaw.ca)

## Mentoring Committee

The Mentoring Project continues to be a tremendous success. In Vancouver, 46 mentors and mentees have been matched. Furthermore, some pairs from the previous year are continuing their mentoring relationship.

The Mentoring Project is now full and we are no longer accepting new applications for 2005 year. Project participants have committed to a one-year term. A celebration will be held at the end of the year to mark the project's success and new friendships that were formed during the year. We will welcome new applicants for the 2006 year starting in September 2005.

**Guidelines:** The Mentoring Committee has prepared guidelines that detail the goals of the Mentoring Project, the role of the Mentoring Committee, the scope of the mentoring relationship and other issues such as confidentiality. Each mentoring pair has also signed an Agreement, specifying terms of the mentoring relationship, expectations, confidentiality, and includes a waiver of liability.

**Events:** In December 2004, a celebration was held with the participation of mentors and mentees in the Sutton Place Hotel. Live music and personal stories from successful mentoring relationships were the highlight of the event.

On March 15 we held an orientation for mentors and mentees at the Sutton Place Hotel. The lunch orientation was very well attended, and participants were very enthusiastic about the project. There was a fairly even mix of mentors and mentees. Some of the mentor/mentee matches met each other for the first time while others had already met or spoken on the telephone.

On April 7, we will hold a mentor/mentee training session at Blake Cassels and Graydon's offices on a "bring your own lunch" basis. The training session is titled: "Mentoring Effectively – Communication Tips for Mentors and Mentees"; the presenters will be Deb Zutter and Anne Chopra.

## Education Committee

**Events:** A successful lunch workshop was held on January 12 at which Allison Wolf gave a presentation on "Marketing Plans."

On March 17, we hosted a sold-out morning workshop on "Communication Strengths: Building Work Relationships" led by Gerrie Waugh, Instructor, School of Business, Capilano College. Gerrie's specialty is organizational behaviour and she has extensive experience facilitating workshops in legal firms. We would like to thank Miller Thomson LLP's Women's Leadership Initiative for providing the location, coffee and muffins for this event.

Finally, mark your calendars! Our popular Leadership Institute will be held on May 27 and 28, featuring advanced skills training sessions on the second day.

**Debra Van Ginkel, Co-Chair**  
604-642-5658

**Gal Dor, Co-Chair**  
604-631-3392

**Suzan D. Beattie, Co-Chair**  
604-990-9416

**Colleen Cattell, Co-Chair**  
604-669-7705

## Networking and Events Committee

The Events Planning Committee welcomes new committee members. Please contact either Valerie or Michelle if you are interested in joining our fun planning team!

**Valerie Shapiro, Co-Chair**  
604-739-3726

**Michelle Pockey, Co-Chair**  
604-643-2950

**February Potluck:** On February 24, Margaret Ostrowski, Q.C. generously hosted the first Forum Potluck, a purely social event designed to allow our members to become better acquainted, exchange laughs, stories, ideas and share experiences about the practice of law. The Potluck was very well attended and enjoyed by all (see Snapshots on page 4). The theme for the Potluck was *Français*. Everyone enjoyed delicious *quiches*, *pommes frites*, *vin (rouge et blanc)*, *tartes* and *tortes* and other dishes *delicieux* contributed by the attendees. We are in the throes of planning the next Potluck which is to take place on June 9 just in time for summer. Stay tuned for further information.

Many thanks to both Val Shapiro and Margaret, who organized this successful event. We'd also like to thank Boughton Peterson Yang Anderson Law Corporation for their generous contribution to the Potluck.

**Annual General Meeting:** We have been hard at work organizing the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the Forum, which will be held on June 23 at 5:00 p.m. We are delighted that Sue Paish, Managing Partner of Fasken Martineau LLP, will be the keynote speaker and will speak about being ambitious in career endeavours.

**Executive Retreat:** We are also organizing the annual Women Lawyers Forum Executive Retreat at Harrison Hot Springs Hotel, which will take place on the weekend of May 13. The retreat is a time for the Executive to come together and focus for a full day on the goals of the Forum, to generate ideas for providing value to its members and for advancing the Forum.

## Communications Committee

We have been active over the last quarter. We developed a logo for the Women Lawyers Forum, which is having the finishing touches applied. We are also working on a promotional bookmark that can be handed out at Forum events.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that a Women Lawyers Forum "listserv" (see definition below) has been created. This service will help Forum members to exchange ideas and information, ask questions and discuss topics of concern to women lawyers.

Forum members have been very active. Our Secretary/Treasurer, Sandy Jakab, spoke at the 28th Annual Women and the Law Dinner on March 17 (hosted by the UBC Law Women's Caucus). Her topic was "Queen Bees and Worker Bees – The Daily Business of Feminizing the Legal Profession" and was an inspiration both to the law students and the practising lawyers who attended.

**Kay Melbye, Co-Chair**  
250-595-2220

**Renee Saklikar, Co-Chair**  
604-540-1105

### Request For Boardrooms

Do you have an available boardroom? Please contact [Michelle](#) or [Valerie](#) if your firm can volunteer boardroom space for education or networking events.

**What is a "listserv"?** A listserv is an automatic mailing list server. When e-mail is addressed to a listserv mailing list, it is automatically broadcast to everyone on the list. The result is similar to a newsgroup or forum, except that messages are transmitted as e-mail and are therefore available only to individuals on the list. Source: [www.webopedia.com](http://www.webopedia.com)

## *Mark Your Calendar*

### **April**

7 Mentor and Mentee Training Session - bring your own lunch (Blake Cassels and Graydon's offices)

### **May**

13-15 Executive Retreat (Harrison Hot Springs Hotel)

27-28 Leadership Institute

### **June**

9 Potluck Dinner

23 Annual General Meeting of the Women Lawyers Forum (5:00 p.m.)

### **August**

14-16 First meeting of the National Women Lawyers Forum, in conjunction with the Canadian Legal Conference (Vancouver Convention Centre)

## *Snapshots*

Members of the Women Lawyers Forum gathered in February at the home of Margaret Ostrowski, Q.C. for the first Women Lawyers Forum Potluck.



L-R: Jennifer Conkie (Conkie & Company) and Margaret Ostrowski, Q.C. (Ostrowski Law Office)



L-R: Linda Nguyen (Miller Thomson Pouliot LLP), Gosia Bawolska (Watson Goepel Maledy), Donna Yamazaki (Watson Goepel Maledy), Jess Hadley (Conkie & Company)