

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



BY KAREN ST.AUBIN  
TLABC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

As TLABC's Membership Director, Karen St. Aubin combines her passion for stewardship, relationship-building, and event management. Karen came to TLABC after almost 5 years with the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch. She has more than 15 years of event and member-service experience in the non-profit world, previously in the arts and medical industries. Growing up in a military family and having moved every few years, she enjoys exploring new places and meeting new people (kind of perfect for member outreach, right?). Outside the office, Karen is the Immediate Past President (2018-19) of the International Live Events Association (ILEA), Vancouver chapter.

Civility can be defined as polite, reasonable and respectful behaviour; the expectation that all parties will treat each other with dignity. Ethics can be defined as the moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity. Ethics and civility are the foundation of good manners, good sportsmanship, and the Golden Rule we learned in kindergarten.

It feels like everyone I speak with, regardless of their profession, remarks on how stressed they are. There never seems to be enough time to get things done, the news focuses on negative events, we watch (or for some unlucky souls, experience) significant natural events like forest fires, floods and devastating storms. Political campaigns rely on attack ads and finger pointing. We worry about social issues and the effects of changes to legislation. So, what do we do in times of stress and concern?

We can retreat inside our shells, withdrawing from each other, protecting ourselves. ... Or we can reach out and connect. Rather than avoiding gatherings, getting out and being civil with one another can be exactly what we need at times like these. Attending events provides benefits and opportunities. Networking, making connections, information-gathering and fun often are the by-product of attending an event, and can help us feel re-inspired, rejuvenated and motivated.

TLABC offers many opportunities for connecting. This fall has been full of events of many kinds. Our members came together at education seminars and committee meetings. Women lawyers at all stages of their career came together at the Women Lawyers Retreat. Members, staff and friends of TLABC came together for the annual Holiday Bash to make a little merry kicking off the festive season.

TLABC also went on the road for a couple of smaller scale opportunities to connect and come together. We hosted a presentation for law students at the University of Victoria to talk about trial tips. We traveled north to Prince George to host a focus group discussion to learn about issues pertinent to lawyers in the north. Each of these events provided demonstrations of civility.

Civility is the essence of professionalism. Our law schools work hard to teach students what they need to know to enter the legal profession; however, the responsibility to cultivate values

of civility cannot be left to them alone. In fact, these values are best taught and acquired by observing and working with other lawyers. No matter what the profession, people learn by observation. TLABC is committed to supporting law students and junior lawyers in helping them learn from experienced lawyers. One way we do this is through an education series called *Trial By Fire No More*. This six-session series is offered at no cost to members and non-members. Although this event is hosted in person at the TLABC office, we have recently expanded our reach by broadcasting the event using Facebook Live, allowing viewers to participate regardless of where they are situated.

Another way that we can foster the cultivation of professionalism is through mentoring. TLABC is continuing to recruit mentors. If you are interested in contributing approximately an hour a month to support a nascent lawyer, I encourage you to put your name forward. Send an email to [karen@tlabc.org](mailto:karen@tlabc.org) indicating your interest.

Our lives are better when we make civility a habit. It starts with each of us. Behaviour based on respect has the power to positively influence the behaviour of others. Civility is contagious! ✓



Above: Legal Careers Officer  
Laura Pringle introduces  
TLABC Members  
Trina Brubaker & Greg  
Phillips to UVic law students.  
Right: Greg & Trina share  
litigation tips with UVic law  
students this past November.