



BY MEGAN EJACK
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BACKING THE PAC, A TLABC TRADITION

Megan Ejack has been the Development Director at TLABC for the past 9 years. She facilitates both the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) fund and new media initiatives for the association. She holds a BA (Hon) from the University of Alberta and has a strong background in fine arts and communications. Megan has spoken at the National Association of Trial Lawyers Executives (NATLE) annual conventions and at the CBABC Women's Forum and is a freelance writer for several outlets. She is also the Creative Director of locally-run, Wink Productions. Megan has travelled the world and is fluent in French, Spanglish and sarcasm. She is passionate about football, sunshine and wine and is currently working towards her certification at the acclaimed International Sommelier's Guild (ISG).

SEASONS CHANGE

There is no stopping a steam engine, or the changing of the seasons...

Days get shorter, nights get cooler and meetings move from sunny patios back to the boardrooms. 'Back to school' jokes abound, but they are not so far off – we, too, stock up on shiny new office supplies, maybe a new outfit (or two,) and relish those last few golden afternoons before the rain kicks in for good. The feeling is in the air, whether you're 5 or 55. As summer begins to fade, it's time to step up our game and begin implementing the strategies and plans we have begun to develop over the past couple of months.

As the seasons change, we feel the transition and growth that comes with every new phase.

What a difference a year makes.

This time last year, TLABC was in the throes of huge transition – we were implementing new office systems, hiring new staff, in the thick of *two* massive campaigns (ROAD BC/Distracted Driving Kills) and still patiently awaiting an interim CEO to lead us. It was a fine balance, to say the least, but challenging times are there to show you what you're made of – and, to borrow a line from a song - *we are made of stars*.

Our members & PAC donors are truly the lifeblood of this association – and because of the power of that support, we didn't just survive, we *thrived*.

Our committees banded together and got the work done, our board and Executive worked double and triple-duty to ensure success, and at TLABC headquarters, we discovered unlimited potential in our crew.

We have built a team that works hard, has vision and even a little fun, (most days,) and we have cultivated leaders who are truly invested in TLABC's success. As each new phase unfolds, we become stronger and more diverse as an organization, we are finding our voice within the political arena, and our membership continues to grow.

As the seasons change, so do we.

TLABC is continually growing and shifting and we must adapt in order to embrace new opportunities. Many of our long-time members are contemplating retirement, while new lawyers begin to step into leadership roles – and this is crucial. These new members represent our future. On the PAC committee, for example, we have some fresh, new faces bringing ideas to the table and we are welcoming our new Chair, Jeff Witten, who succeeds Larry Kancs (after more than 30 years tenure!) It's a brave new world.

The landscape of law is also changing and it is through these transitions that we continue to embrace our potential, as an organization. New voices lead to a more multidimensional approach to our work. Through campaigns and initiatives to support all of the different practice areas, we learn, we grow and we flourish. Each member becomes an integral part of the whole.

As we move forward, it's our mission to continue to work to protect the rights of individuals, and support the issues central to *all* of our members.

PAC is in place to do this work.

Your PAC dollars fuel the efforts to sustain our tort system, to fight for better legal aid, to say no to injury caps, and to explore innovative perspectives on access to justice. As new issues arise, (and they will,) we need to continue to take a stand against injustice. Thank you to our PAC donors, who truly allow us to do the work we do, and to have a strong voice in the justice community!

We see the future not as
something out of our control,
but as something
we can shape for the better through
concerted and collective effort.

– BARACK OBAMA