



BACKING THE PAC, A TLABC TRADITION

Megan Ejack has been the Development Director at TLABC for the past 5 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).

BY MEGAN EJACK
TLABC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Pop Quiz, Hotshot: What does PAC stand for?

As an association, over the past few years, we have been working hard to build momentum, to streamline our mission, to clarify our values and our goals, and to outline for our membership and the community exactly who we are and what we do.

We have special committees, litigation groups, a dedicated Board of Governors, Executive & Staff who develop projects and initiatives to support our justice system, and we continue to build our engagement and connections through initiatives like 'TLABC Cares' and our Social Media. (For more on these initiatives, please see our website.)

One of our biggest ongoing challenges, however, is to convey exactly how crucial PAC is to us.

So let me break it down for you.

PAC is our Public Affairs Committee fund and it essential to the work we do in the justice community.

PAC covers all non-operational costs of the association's work – For example, anything associated with cross-practice advocacy or justice campaigns such as the **Battle for Legal Aid in BC** and the **Call for a Wrongful Death Act**. It protects our citizens from certain changes in insurance legislation that would effect your practice (e.g. **ICBC Transformation 2014/ No-Fault Auto Insurance**) or unconstitutional legislation like court hearing fees (e.g. the recent success at the Supreme Court

of Canada) or jury fees, which we are currently working on - the list goes on and on!

As I've said many times, PAC is in place so that we can act quickly when threats to our justice system arise. Maintaining a "war chest" of sorts is vital so that we can hit the ground running to protect our citizens from injustice, as well as to seek out the issues that affect our members the most.

PAC is what allows us to have a strong voice, when needed, and a united front with regards to advocacy.

Let me put it in simple terms: PAC dollars protect our justice system and help to protect your practice.

Currently, only 20% of our membership contributes to PAC. That means that these few, dedicated people are funding YOUR advocacy, YOUR voice and, in a sense, YOUR practice insurance.

Membership dues do not sustain the PAC fund. It is a choice to step up and show your passion and commitment to justice.

Our new, streamlined mission statement reads as follows: **"To support and promote the rights of individuals in British Columbia"**

Together we strive to:

- Promote the rights of individuals
- Preserve the jury system
- Improve the professionalism and standards of trial lawyers
- Enhance access to justice
- Protect the innocent
- Promote judicial integrity and independence

If you believe in any of these statements, and I hope you do, you will agree that there is still work to be done!

Our PAC committee works hard as ambassadors for TLABC, but we need your help. We're hoping to kick off the season with a PAC phoneathon to jumpstart our fundraising efforts – so if you want to be part of the progress, in the words of Jerry Maguire, "Show me the money!"

When you get that call, show your commitment to justice in BC and get on board with PAC.

The truth is... we need you. ✓

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"
- Helen Keller

CHRONIC PAIN

- **PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR LITIGATION**
(Including Research-Based Opinion)
- **CASE CONSULTATION AND CRITIQUE**
- **EXPERT TESTIMONY**
- **TREATMENT**

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