



BY KERI GRENIER
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PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

Keri Grenier is an experienced personal injury lawyer based at Murphy Battista LLP's Kelowna office. Called to the British Columbia Bar in 2001, Keri's practice focuses on helping people who have been injured in motor vehicle accidents or due to the negligence of others. Keri has more than a decade of experience representing clients who have been injured in car accidents, through assaults, by defective products or due to the fault of a health care professional (be it doctor, dentist, chiropractor or other therapist). In addition to personal injury and medical malpractice cases, Keri represents the families of people killed through accidents or malpractice, including children and older relatives. As a woman and mother, Keri's personal and practical insight on how injuries impact a family are two of the reasons clients retain her legal services.

At the start of 2017 I was excited and scared but motivated to make a difference. Many past presidents, staff and TLABC members before me had already put in the effort to build a reputation for TLABC that made government sit up and take notice. In 2017, with the help of many, we continued to work hard to enhance TLABC's reputation and most importantly, to make a difference in the lives of British Columbians.

With ICBC being in financial crisis and an election in the spring, our primary mandate in 2017 was to address the threat of change to our tort system. Our ICBC Committee under the leadership of John Rice and Ron Nairne dedicated a huge amount of time and resources to the fight. They ensured appropriate meetings were arranged, and critical information was researched and presented. We had the privilege of meeting our former premiere, Christy Clark, our current premiere, John Horgan, and many other influential members of government, as well as ICBC, in efforts to further our mission.

We also saw the launch of the BC Coalition to End Distracted Driving www.distracteddrivingkills.ca. The Coalition now has over 22,000 members and 35 partners. I am very proud of our team that helped TLABC partner and grow the Coalition.

The battle to save our tort system is ongoing but through our volunteers and donors to our Public Affairs Committee (PAC), TLABC has been given a voice at the table for the victims of car accidents.

There are many other battles we continue to wage and under new leadership will continue to progress. These include the battle for legal aid and changes to wrongful death legislation, among other causes. We are also seeing the reputation of lawyers being potentially diminished by new business models and advertising tactics. TLABC will continue its mission to support and promote the rights of individuals in British Columbia which includes protecting and improving the professionalism and standards of trial lawyers.

The organization itself went through some significant changes in 2017. Our Finance Director, June Gambrel graciously stepped into the CEO role while we commenced our search to fill that position. I would personally like to express my gratitude to June. She gave the organization everything she had during a challenging year. To the rest of the staff who stepped up to help out June or

myself during difficult times: Thank you!

After a long search, in October we welcomed Shawn Mitchell as our CEO. Shawn comes to TLABC with a wealth of education and experience in the non-profit industry and we are lucky to have him on board. We also welcomed Karen St. Aubin as our Membership Director. It has been a pleasure to work with both Shawn and Karen.

Our Education Department continued to impress in 2017 with fantastic conferences in various practice areas. I personally had the privilege and pleasure of attending both the Medical-Legal conference in New Port Beach, as well as the Women Lawyer's retreat in Whistler. Both conferences were nothing short of fantastic.

Our Public Affairs Committee (PAC) did an amazing job fundraising in 2017. I know that they will continue to pound the pavement so that our organization can continue fighting the fight. Without these volunteers and donations, our work would come to a halt. Please give generously to PAC.

Last but not least, our *Verdict* team has outdone themselves again this year.

As an organization, we have a lot to be proud of. We have come a long way and still so much more to do. It is hard to believe that this year has come and gone. Fortunately, I am leaving the organization in capable hands with our incoming President, Sonny Parhar. I have had the privilege to work with Sonny over the years and know he is ready and motivated for the challenges in the year ahead. All the best in the year to come! 



2018 TLABC President Sonny Parhar with 2017 President Keri Grenier holding her certificate of appreciation at the recent TLABC Holiday Bash this past December held in Vancouver.