

## 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 comes to TLABC from the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch with over 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 President (2017-18) of the International Live Events Association, Vancouver chapter.

January – a time of new beginnings, fresh starts, New Year's resolutions, a calendar just waiting to be filled in. It's a time to look back on the year that was and reflect about what we did well and what we can do differently going forward. I am excited about my new beginning as a member of the TLABC team where I've been warmly welcomed by staff and members alike. I look forward to using my experience in member engagement, event and conference management, and community outreach to enhance my role as your Membership Director.

In this issue of *the Verdict* with its theme of money, it seems appropriate to talk about the value of membership. I am and have been a member of many organizations and associations, and the common thread for both members and leaders is the value of membership. As organizations reflect on membership retention and growth, the conversation always seems to come back to value. "What do I get out of a membership?" is a commonly heard question. I suggest the question we should ask is: "What can I do to get more out of my membership?" A membership is an investment that pays dividends with only a little effort.

I believe membership at TLABC provides immense value. You, its members, are part of an organization that is widely respected in the legal community. This association sits on the bedrock set by its founders, a small group of passionate lawyers who wanted to make a difference and were leaders in pursuing access to justice for everyday citizens. Members of TLABC share a common passion for protecting the rights of the individual, for advocating for access to our courts and the pursuit of justice. Whether you are a newly called lawyer or a long-time engaged governor, our association's collective membership provides a combination of

fresh enthusiasm and perspective mixed with years of experience and wisdom. It is a diverse membership of legal professionals from across the province who practise in a wide range of specialties. It is an association that offers award-winning legal education to ensure its members receive Continuing Professional Development programs via webinars, seminars and conferences to stay at the top of the profession. TLABC Practice Group listservers are consistently rated as one of the most valuable resources offered to members. You can ask questions of fellow members, and access their expertise with a single email. The quarterly publication you have in your hands, *the Verdict*, keeps its readers up to date as an important source of news, columns, debate, case notes, and products and services.

Your TLABC membership comes with much opportunity for value, but it's like joining a gym. It's not enough to simply sign up and pay your dues; you have to get sweaty in order to get fit! I encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to make connections with your fellow members through our education and social events. Engage with TLABC advocacy efforts. Log onto the listservers to share and access knowledge and advice. Get involved by volunteering on a committee. Save with our affinity partners. Become a TLABC champion by encouraging others to consider membership. As not every member's needs are the same, there is more than one way to get value for your membership.

I look forward to helping you  
enhance the value of  
your membership in 2018.

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