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Real Estate Lawyers Association - Nova Scotia

2019 CONFERENCE

Thursday October 3rd, 2019

BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS

ELIAS METLEJ

Elias is the leader of the firm's Real Property Practice Group. His practice is focused in the areas of commercial and residential real estate transactions. He has extensive experience in the areas of condominium law and residential construction, representing both developers and investors. Elias has been recognized for his practice in Real Estate law by *Best Lawyers in Canada* for the past two years.

Elias has acted for both local and national companies in the acquisition and management of multi-unit residential properties. He has acted as counsel to major land developers providing advice on subdivisions, land use planning and development agreements. Elias has also provided coaching, training and legal advice to various real estate brokerages and financial institutions.

Elias is a member of the Canadian Bar Association (past Chair of the Nova Scotia Real Property section), Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and the Real Estate Lawyers Association of Nova Scotia. He is a volunteer at the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED), providing legal seminars for entrepreneurs. He is a regular host and speaker at local seminars for first-time home buyers and has been a columnist with the Metro Daily News. Elias is a past member of the Cultural Advisory Committee, the Heritage

Advisory Committee and the steering committee for the Barrington Street Revitalization Plan. He has also acted as counsel to Hockey Canada and the International Ice Hockey Federation.

DIANNA BURNS

Dianna is a graduate of Saint Mary's University and obtained her law degree at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She worked as a paralegal while obtaining her National Accreditation Certificate before being called to the Bar in Nova Scotia.

Dianna's practice includes wills, powers of attorney, personal directives, trusts, probate and administration. She also provides small business legal services and handles real estate transactions to ensure full service to her clients.

MARY ANN MCGRATH

Mary Ann McGrath joined the Legal Services Unit of Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) in 2016 as their Senior Paralegal, managing real property transactions of the Government of Canada for the Atlantic Region.

Mary Ann has spent over 30 years as a property paralegal with several regional law firms, as well as some time in a legal department of a local telecom business.

She has been involved with the *Land Registration Act* since its inception, as a member of the Registry 2000 Team and later as a Member of the Nova Scotia Legislature, supporting passage of the *LRA* in 2001.

MANI TAHERI

Mani joined the Department of Justice in 2009 after completing his articles with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre in Ottawa. Since that time he has been advising the federal government on matters related to the practice of commercial law, real property and government procurement in particular. As counsel with the PSPC Legal Services Unit he assists his clients on a broad range of topics including, the preparation of real property conveyancing instruments, competitive solicitations and resulting contracts, as well as matters related to contract administration, disputes with suppliers and matters before varying levels of court and the Canadian International Trade Tribunal.

ALAN FARQUHAR

Alan Farquhar joined the Justice Canada Atlantic Regional Office as Advisory Counsel in 2010 after several years in private practice specializing in real property and Estate law with files throughout the province of Nova Scotia.

Upon joining Justice Canada, Alan's practice was been divided between real property law, and Aboriginal advisory law. During his 9 years with Justice, Alan has also filled an assignment with ACOA Legal Services and Public Services and Procurement Canada ("PSPC") Legal Services with focus on asset recovery and real property transactional law.

Alan's primary client remains PSPC, together with files from Indigenous Services Canada, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Department of National Defense and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

GRACE ORRELL

Grace joined the firm Baker Tilly Nova Scotia in the mid-80's and has progressed through the years in many different capacities, mergers and rebranding.

Presently, Grace has the role of Tax Services Manager. She holds the U.S. designation of Enrolled Agent and is licensed to practice before the IRS.

She handles tax engagements with mainly cross-border aspects of taxation relating to personal income tax, estates and trusts.

ELIZABETH WOZNAK

Elizabeth is from Alberta. She has a LL.B from Dalhousie (2001) and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta (1994). She is the founder of North Star Immigration Law Inc. Elizabeth is frequently consulted by the media, government and non-governmental organizations on matters pertaining to immigration law and policy. She has taught immigration and refugee law at Schulich School of Law (Dalhousie University) and regularly presents at conferences, including at the CBA National Immigration Law Conference in Ottawa in May 2015. Elizabeth is a member of the NSBS and Canadian Bar Association (Immigration Section), and is an authorized foreign worker recruiter licensed by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour. Elizabeth lived and worked in Asia (China and South Korea) from 1994-1998 before attending law school.

MARK TIPPERMAN

Mark Tipperman is a lawyer admitted in New York, Oregon, Washington State and Nova Scotia. He received his J.D. from Hofstra University in 1973 and an L.L.M degree from New York University. He served in the New York State Attorney General's office, before entering private practice with law firms in New York and Washington State, served as in-house counsel for a commercial real estate organization and eventually opening his solo practice. His practice is almost exclusively U.S. commercial real estate.

MATTHEW MOIR

Matthew was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar in 2002 and has since practiced law at Weldon McInnis. He represents clients in real estate transactions, corporate and commercial transactions, and litigation. Matthew has volunteered for various organizations including the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission and the Kings Community Family Resource Centre. He has held numerous volunteer positions with the Canadian Bar Association, both at the provincial branch and national levels, and was an editor for Nova Scotia Law News. Matthew is a member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's Real Estate Practice Standards Committee and North Preston Pro Bono Pilot Project, and a member of the Supreme Court Liaison Committee.

ANDREW RANKIN

Andrew Rankin is a partner with Burchells LLP. Since his call to the Nova Scotia Bar in 2001, his practice has focused on debtor and creditor litigation and mortgage enforcement issues. Andrew acts regularly on behalf of several major lending institutions and frequently appears in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia on debtor and creditor issues. Andrew has intimate knowledge of debt collection procedures, foreclosure actions and method of judgement enforcement. Andrew acts on behalf of lenders in all four Atlantic Provinces and is also member of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

JANE GOURLEY-DAVIS

Jane loves assisting clients whether it's in buying their first home or selling a long-held commercial building. Jane also recognizes the privilege of assisting a client in drafting an effective estate plan or assisting family members navigate the legal process after the death of a loved one. Jane operates a very personal practice, and strives to always keep in close contact with clients to assure they are comfortable with each step of the file. Jane is a partner with Patterson whose practice primarily focuses on the preparation of Agreements of Purchase and Sale, Leases of real property, Migration of parcels to the Land Registry system, transactions of purchase and sale of real property, as well as general estate planning for individuals. Jane also assists real estate developers navigate the process of entering into Development Agreements with the planning departments of HRM, Truro and Colchester County. Jane is a registered user of the Land Registry System.

Jane has been the primary property lawyer for both the Municipality of the County of Colchester and the Town of Westville for several years. Jane is the Chair of the Real Property Section of the Canadian Bar Association (Nova Scotia Branch) and has presented to the Real Estate Lawyers Association of Nova Scotia (RELANS) and CBA Real Property Section on recent developments to the practice in Nova Scotia. Jane is an active member of her local community including as a Board Member of the Jane Norman College and as Vice President of the Rotary Club of Truro.
