

VALL REVIEW

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Campney & Murphy

VALL REVIEW Editors:

Ana Rosa Blue

B.C. Courthouse Library

& Lynda Roberts

Bull, Housser & Tupper

Vancouver Association of Law Libraries
PO Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

<http://vall.vancouver.bc.ca/vall.htm>

VALL REVIEW is the official newsletter of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries, composed of law library community members interested in discussing issues and sharing ideas that affect it. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent VALL policy/position. Unsolicited submissions are welcome. VALL reserves the right to edit submissions.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF VALL

Jane Wells

VALL has a website – <http://vall.vancouver.bc.ca/vall.htm>. It is still in the development stages but a great deal of information is available on the site. Please take a look and send any suggestions to our website committee, chaired by Lynne Foster of the B.C. Securities Commission.

Members of VALL formed the VALL-BCCLS Legal Information Focus Group. The focus group met with members of the staff of the B.C. Courthouse Library Society to discuss development of the BCCLS website and legal information Services.

We were very fortunate to have Paula Grahame from the Crown Counsel's office of the B.C. Ministry of the Attorney General speak to us at our January meeting. Paula provided a thorough and enthusiastic review of the progress of a criminal case from the perspective of the Crown. She explained her role as crown counsel and provided some scenarios of particular court situations. Our guest speaker in February was Kathryn Gretsinger Host of the CBC "Afternoon Show". Kathryn focused on the issue of conflict resolution in the context of the stories she had pursued. Journalists, she felt, endeavour to advance new ideas as they appear in society.

In March, VALL and SLA Western Canada Chapter (Vancouver) held a joint workshop on copyright issues. The workshop included a panel of three presenters Stuart Rennie, Legislation and Law Reform Officer for the CBA (BC Branch), Chris Wilson, an Associate practising Intellectual Property, Information Technology and General Litigation law with Bull Housser & Tupper and Paul Whitney, Chief Librarian, Burnaby Public Library. Stuart Rennie discussed copyright as intellectual property, the recent legislative history of copyright, the present act and regulations, developments in court, federal crown copyright, international obligations and the situation in B.C. Chris Wilson discussed the CCH Canadian v. Law Society of Upper Canada case, new exemptions for non-profit organizations and CANCOPY. Paul Whitney reviewed the digital phase of copyright reform and among other issues looked at the question of "fair dealing" and the use of the Internet.

In the middle of April, Canada Law Book hosted a Spring cocktail party for VALL members and authors from Western Canada. Members of VALL now look forward to the CALL conference in PEI.

FROM THE EDITORS

Ana Rosa Blue and Lynda Roberts

We are excited to have a submission from a VALL member working overseas. **Nick Collings**, deputy librarian with Allen & Overy has kindly submitted an article on the publication of the Civil Procedure Rules. He sheds some light on a *gray* area. For further study you can find the Woolf Report at www.law.warwick.ac.uk/Woolf/report/

With the launch of the VALL website we are now publishing the *VALL Review* electronically. We will continue to publish the *VALL Review* in print until it is *virtually* impossible!

The deadline for submissions for the June issue is Monday, June 4th, 2000. Please send your material in electronic format to Lynda Roberts: ljr@bht.com or Ana Rosa Blue: arblue@bccls.bc.ca.

EDITORIAL

With this Editorial, we are introducing a new feature to the VALL Review. Hopefully it will become an interactive feature and we will be able to add Letters to the Editor in the next issue!

Task based billing. Should librarians be adding their two cents?

According to an article in the *National* this month, lawyers in North America began recording their time systematically in six minute increments around 1919. The hourly billing method is the predominant billing method in the North American legal profession today. This detailed recording system allows lawyers to bill clients for service based on the time it takes the lawyer to complete the task.

Despite, its popularity, there are some problems with this system. This approach to calculating the value of a lawyer's work suggests that time, alone, is the critical element. Current literature suggests that there is some resistance to the idea that a product is distinguished by the time it took to produce rather than by its quality and significance. Needless to say it raises the question; if a lawyer relies on a handy precedent, or benefits from the efficiency of technology, how can time, alone, reflect the value of the work?

A 1996 report from the Canadian Bar Association's *Systems of Civil Justice Task Force* recommended the use of "a variety of billing methods in determining fees for legal services, with an emphasis on the value and timeliness of the results achieved, rather than the time spent."

Value and timeliness are characteristics that librarians understand very well. If these recommendations were adopted, just imagine, hours spent constructing a database for legal precedents and memoranda, hours spent building an Intranet, and hours spent cataloguing materials would be realized as an entry in a ledger rather than being considered *non-billable*.

NEWS

The Copyright Workshop was a great success. Please note that the CCH Canadian Ltd. v. Law Society of Upper Canada judgment of Federal Court Judge Gibson is under appeal. It will be some time yet before we have a definitive answer on the issues raised in this case. In his presentation at the workshop, Chris Wilson, of Bull Housser & Tupper, did suggest that most likely the days of unlicensed photocopying in private law firm libraries are numbered. He added that, with the prospect of having to negotiate with a collective such as CANCOPY, librarians should be aware of exactly what is subject to copyright and which publishers belong to the collective. Negotiating, he concluded, is best done through librarian's consortia – *let our collectives talk to their collectives!*

PETER BARK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARY

Unfortunately, due to a lack of applications, the **Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary** will not be awarded this year. We look forward to members taking advantage of this great opportunity next year. Please watch for announcements and mark the March 1st application deadline in your calendars!



VALL REVIEW

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Brown Book and Other Colours

Contributed by Nick Collings, Allen & Overy, London, England

This brief article came about as a result of some enquiries from Vancouver about the UK's new 'Brown Book' - in my position as deputy librarian with Allen & Overy, a large law firm based in London, England, they obviously hoped I would know something. At the time there was some confusion about what the Brown Book was and if it had been superseded by something called the Civil Procedure Rules. I do not intend to talk much about the Rules themselves or their effects or reception among the legal profession - I simply don't have the legal expertise. My object is simply to clear up some confusion about various volumes people may have on their shelves.

The Brown Book, named initially because of the colour of its cover, is published by the UK government printers (HMSO) and from the '60s to the '90s comprised the Supreme Court Practice Rules, a statutory instrument which is the basis for any lawyer dealing with litigation in the High Court. However the situation fundamentally changed in 1998 with the introduction of the Civil Procedure Rules (SI 1998/3132), which supersede both the Supreme Court Practice Rules and the County Practice Rules in civil matters. The Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) came about after a lengthy root-and-branch review of the civil justice system headed by Lord Woolf and have now substantially come into force - the first date for the 'big bang' was in April 1999. As a result the Brown Book now contains the Civil Procedure Rules.

The objectives of the Woolf reforms are: to improve access to justice; to introduce the concept of 'proportionality' between a claim's value and its associated legal fees; to reduce the length of time that claims take to be settled; and, to ensure that cases are dealt with justly. The most radical change at a

practical level has been the introduction of pre-action protocols which define specific activities that must take place prior to litigation. In a large law firm such as mine the effects are not so noticeable in the library but I imagine smaller firms and their libraries will have found their workloads and routines significantly altered.

Views on whether or not these objectives have been met are predictably mixed. As the changes are so wide-reaching and are taking some time to phase in, discussion seems often to be simply keeping track of the changes and their effects rather than giving pronouncements on the success or otherwise of CPR. But the tenor of articles may change with the first anniversary of its coming into force in April of this year.

To return to the physical volumes, most SIs produced by government printers in England are in a paper-bound monograph form. They have no amendments, annotations or other helpful info, just the bare text. The Brown Book appears in a slightly different format in that it is a self-contained loose-leaf set with amendments issued regularly to update it and some related practice directions to augment it. But there is still no commentary, footnotes or anything to help the user along. To complicate matters the colour of the cover of the new book is more blue than brown!

When the Brown Book originally came out in the 1960's, publishers were quick to see a spot in the market. Sweet & Maxwell have long produced a set universally known as 'The White Book'. Again, like the Brown Book, this first contained the Supreme Court Practice Rules, but it was also equipped with footnotes, other relevant statute material and even pertinent case summaries. The White Book is not and never has been official but it is far easier to deal with than the original legislation on a day-to-day basis. It has only acquired 'authority' by having a dominant position in the marketplace.

The 'Green Book' provided the same sort of reference for the County Court Practice Rules and while our firm did not require this set in the same numbers it enjoyed the same level of recognition and authority among those who need it. But with the superseding of the County Court Practice Rules by the Civil Procedure Rules the Green Book has now gone to the Great Discard Bin in the sky.

The Brown Book, whether in its current guise as the Civil Procedure Rules and in that of their predecessors, has always existed as an option to buy instead of the White Book. People tend to choose the White Book because it incorporates amendments in a more comfortable system of regularly-produced cumulative supplements and new editions and provides extremely useful annotations and commentary on the various sections. We could have always chosen not to subscribe to the White Book and taken the official Brown Book version of the Rules instead. But since this is not what our users are used to, we would have found ourselves very unpopular. For this reason my firm has always taken the White Book in preference to the rules in their official version.

A new version of the White Book has appeared, based on the new Civil Procedure Rules. We have bought one copy of the Brown Book but only for use as a comparison if necessary. We have always bought the White Book in large numbers to be held by lawyers in our Litigation dept and they will expect us to continue doing so. And of course I've said nothing about the Blue Book, the Yellow Book, the Yellow and Orange books, the Red book

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

Karen Ross

CCH Canadian Ltd.
2002-127A Street
Surrey, BC V4A 6A6
tel: 535-5101
fax: 531-5188
email: karen_ross@ca.cch.com

Changes & Moves

Russell & DuMoulin is now called:
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

Teresa Gleave's new email address is:
tgleave@van.fasken.com

Gabriella Barsoum's new email address is:
gbarsoum@van.fasken.com

Fasken Martineau DuMoulin Library's
Reference Desk phone: 631-4716
Reference Desk fax: 632-4716

Ladner Downs is now called:
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Anne Beresford's new email address is:
aberesford@blgcanada.com

Wendy Ng's new email address is:
wng@blgcanada.com

Maureen Wood's new email address is:
mwood@blgcanada.com

Joan D. Bilsland

Ernst & Young
1300 Ernst & Young House
707-7th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 3H6
tel: (403) 261-4430
fax: (403) 290-4138
joan.d.bilsland@ca.eyi.com

Sonia Poulin

Douglas Symes & Brissenden
2100 One Bentall Centre
505 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V7X 1R4
tel: 631-1205
fax: 669-1337
email: spoulin@ds-b.com

New emails

Pam Clancy

pam.clancy@lss.bc.ca

Judy Deavy

Judy.Deavy@justice.gc.ca

Ron Stenberg

Ron.Stenberg@justice.gc.ca

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Isabel Schulthess

Isabel.Schulthess@justice.gc.ca

New addresses

Catherine Kerr

201-1126 Barclay Street

Vancouver, BC V6E 1H1

tel: 688-1775

email: cjkerr@interchange.ubc.ca

Barbara Esau

3-15415 Marine Drive

White Rock, BC V4B 1C8

tel: 531-5124 fax: 531-5126

email: barbara.esau@carswell.com

Left VALL

Bruce Davie (CLE)

Eve Porter (Courthouse Library)

VENDORS CORNER

Butterworths

submitted by Arthur Vaz, Sales Manager, Western Canada

Subscriptions:

A 4th edition of Feeney's Canadian Law of Wills is scheduled to be published in May. This one-volume looseleaf will bring you the complete law of wills at your fingertips. It deals with all aspects of law and includes legislation and case law from across Canada. Some of the topics covered include Due Execution, Conditional Gifts and Other Restrictions on Giving, the Rule against Perpetuities, Support of Dependents and Revocation. One update a year will keep the service up to date.

Internet and E-Commerce Law in Canada (March) is a monthly newsletter that is designed to help legal

practitioners keep fully informed of the decisions, policies and legislation as they appear. The newsletter format is uniquely suited to meet the needs of practitioners for timely, exclusive advice and reporting. It will deal with such key issues as: The proposed new Privacy Act (Bill C-6), Conducting e-commerce law audits, Developing a "public key" infrastructure for the Canadian legal community, Emerging issues in the technological workplace, Web-casting and the CRTC, Canadian domain name administration, The Tariff 22 decision, Telemedicine, Consumer protection and e-commerce, E-commerce patents, Canadian criminal law and international web sites, Online securities regulation and Cybersmearing.

Textbooks:

Texts due for publication in the next 2 months include Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, 3rd Ed. (Aggarwal), Canadian Mental Health Law and Policy (Gray/shone/Liddle), Commercial General Liability Insurance (Sanderson/Emblem/Woodley), Bidding and Tendering: What is the Law? (Sandori/Pigott), and Legal Writing and Research Manual, 5th Ed. (Yogis).

The year 2000 also promises to be an exciting year for Butterworths employees. Linda Yee, your Lexis-Nexis account executive for the past three years will be relocating to Toronto in May to take on exciting opportunities with Lexis-Nexis. She will be missed and we wish her well. I will now also be responsible for Lexis accounts in B.C. and will be hiring an account executive who will specifically deal with Butterworths and Lexis-Nexis product for the corporate and government markets. Please call me for any product enquiries or Lexis training.

Carswell

Submitted by Bonnie Preece Manager, Product and Content Support, Carswell

CARSWELL INSTITUTE 2000 "LEVERAGING WORLD KNOWLEDGE"

LOCATION

CALL Conference Hotel, Delta Prince Edward Hotel, Charlottetown, PEI from May 31 to June 1

PROGRAM

- May 31, 2000: 4:00-6:00 Registration
- June 1, 2000:
 - 8:00-8:30 Canadian Breakfast
 - 8:30-9:00 Opening Address:
A View of the World from my Ottawa Window,
Karon Crummey, Legal Librarian, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
 - 9:00-10:30 A Global View from Downunder Nick Pengelley, Centre for Innovation Law and Policy Librarian, Bora Laskin Law Library
 - 10:30-10:45 Viennese Pastries and Coffee
 - 10:45-12:00 Atlas Bookmarked: Theory and Practice in Global Legal Research, Marylin Raisch, International and Foreign Law Librarian Bora Laskin Law Library
 - 12:00 New Orleans Jazz Brunch - Complete with Preservation Hall Music and "Sweet Emma"
 - 1:30-5:00 Workshops:
The afternoon sessions are designed to be interactive workshops. Three specific subject areas will be addressed by working through a challenging "research question" that just must be answered! We will use a specific research methodology template. Our panel of "experts" will facilitate small group dialogues, collecting the wealth of solutions from our network of participants. At the close of each workshop our panellists will review their prepared Resource Lists.
 - 1:30-2:30 Workshop One:
Global Tax Issues and Resources, Ron MacLeod
 - 2:30-3:30 Workshop Two:
International Trade, Arbitration and Intellectual Property Nick Pengelley
 - 3:30-4:00 PEI - Sea Air Break
 - 4:00-5:00 Workshop Three: International Litigation: Criminal and Family Law Marylin Raisch
 - 5:00-6:00 Reception: "Put on the Barbie"

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

As registration is limited to 50 participants, please register as soon as possible. The Carswell Institute will cost \$60.00 this year: \$30.00 of this amount will be forwarded to the CALL Education Committee, the remainder of this fee will be used to offset facilities costs. Fees should be forwarded to Allison Lidkea, ATTN: CARSWELL INSTITUTE 2000, 2075 Kennedy Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1T 3V4 and cheques made out to Carswell.

To register, please e-mail the following information to train@carswell.com or fax to 1-416-298-5082.

Name: _____; Institution or Corporate Affiliation: _____; Mailing Address: _____; E-Mail: _____; Telephone Number: _____; Fax Number: _____; Special Dietary Requests:

Include:

1. During the last three months, I have required information on the following international/global issues: (list three)
2. I am particularly interested in the following international/global subject areas: (list three)

CCH

Submitted by Karen Ross, Senior Account Manager

We have re-launched iWorks!

NEW Folio Platform

CCH has launched Folio 5.1- LivePublish. All CCH electronic products are being moved to this platform. This is a true web based browser, incorporating the folio search engine. CCH is the first publisher in Canada to launch this leading edge research technology. Call for a FREE 30-day trial

Securities Protos is now available! – The newest link to the most up-to-date securities information. This product is designed to supplement both CCH's print and electronic securities law subscription services. It is an Internet based bulletin board containing six months of valuable securities information. Call for your FREE 30-day trial.

Did you know that the CD and Internet Versions of the Canada Corporations Law Reporter, contains a Table of Concordance of all Companies' Acts? The

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electronic Table of Concordance gives the researchers access to the Canada Business Corporations Act and the full text of all provincial and territorial Corporations Acts as well as the table of concordance. Link between federal and provincial Acts instantly with the click of a mouse.

U.S. & International Publications

World Trade Regulation Manual - this unique reference gives you a reliable way to identify significant barriers to trade in 25 of the world's principal trading nations, *plus* the remedies available to overcome these barriers under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The World Trade Regulation Manual is the only resource that offers you full explanations of how the WTO's system can be used to prevail over these governmental obstacles

Anti-Money Laundering Guide - a new service from CCH U.K. to help users stay in compliance with legislation from 27 countries including Canada, U.S., U.K. and the European Union member states. Quarterly updates, 1 volume loose-leaf \$ 912, single user CD ROM \$ 678

International Transfer Pricing Library consisting of:
U.S. Transfer Pricing Guide – Practice and Policy, 1 volume loose-leaf \$ 752

International Transfer Pricing Laws: Text & Commentary, 1 volume loose-leaf \$1,125
Both \$ 1,562

US Securities Law - SEC and BLUE SKY LAW FORMS. Updated interactive forms on CD-ROM and the Internet.

E-Commerce Tax Alert

From CCH's State Tax Institute, this is a monthly advisor on e-commerce tax law, regulation, compliance, and tactics. Incisive analysis keeps tax advisors on top of emerging trends, and state government enforcement actions; and issues such as

audit requirements and e-commerce business planning to avoid taxation of transactions

Telecommunications Reports International (TRI)
A new member of CCH's Business & Finance Group, TRI has been providing telecommunications news and analysis since 1934, and is the most respected telecom business and regulatory news service available. Among the wide range of issues covered are privatization and liberalization by regulators; International regulation, and trade policies. See www.tr.com for an in depth look at TRI services.

New Book Titles/Editions Now Available:

Canadian Income Tax Act with Regulations goes to two editions a year. The next edition is due in August 2000. Make sure you budget for an extra edition!
Understanding the Taxation of Partnerships, 4TH Edition, 1999 Hard Bound - \$60.00
Understanding Section 55 & Butterfly Reorganizations - \$145.00 HB
Canadian Income Tax Act with Regulations, 69TH Edition - HB \$ 85.00 - Soft Bound \$ 68.25
A Guide to the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program Soft Bound - \$ 49.95
Corporation Capital Tax in Canada - HB 85.00
Value-Added Taxation in Canada: GST, HST & QST – Soft Bound \$ 40.00

Bennett gets Bundled!!

	PRICE	BUNDLED
<u>Bennett on Bankruptcy Precedents</u>	\$89.95	
<u>Bennett on Bankruptcy</u> , 6 th Edition	\$59.95	\$223.95
<u>Bennett on PPSA (Ontario)</u>	\$59.95	
<u>Bennett on Going Broke</u>	\$27.95	

For information, please call Karen Ross at 535-5101, or email kross@ca.cch.com

News from Canada Law Book

Submitted by Peter Roberts

As spring is in the air, we are offering all customers a guarantee of speed and efficiency in our judgement photocopying service. We now guarantee all

photocopying requests will be available within three hours of your initial order. In most cases our 'turn around' time is within an hour, but if for some reason it takes us longer than three hours, then your photocopying is free of charge. All orders must be faxed in on the appropriate forms to confirm the initial order time and then our Vancouver office will have these judgements ready for 'pick-up' within the 3 hour guaranteed time period. All FAXED ORDERS are guaranteed in just ONE HOUR and all orders faxed in to our offices will automatically receive a 10% discount'. Otherwise, no charge. If you have not received copies of the appropriate Fax Order Forms, please contact either Sabrina or Rob at 844-7855.

New publications:

Canadian Film & Television Business & Legal Practice by Tony Duarte Looseleaf Binder & contents \$ 210.00

Administrative investigations & prosecutions by Manuel & Donzelmann. Hardbound text, \$ 125.00

Personal injury litigation: Guidance for healthcare professionals. Perfectbound text, \$ 59.00

Injunctions & Specific performance, 3rd. ed. by Sharpe. Hardbound text. \$ 129.00

B.C. Annual Criminal Practice, 2000 edition. \$ 45 each.

B.C. Motor Vehicle Act, Annotated. \$ 78 each. (Available April, 2000)

D.L.R. PLUS is a guarantee that you will cut your current library costs without losing any benefits. Essentially, we are offering the additional service of all the D.L.R.'s on either the Internet or CD ROM as a free companion to your 'paper' subscription. D.L.R. PLUS actually costs you LESS than your current 'paper' subscription and you get both your 'paper' subscription PLUS Internet or CD ROM coverage thrown in !! Please phone Shayne Andrews about converting your subscription.

News from CLE

Submitted by Karen Imeson

"CLE Customer Service, Kelly speaking..."

Kelly Skinner has recently joined Susan McLean in our Customer Service Department, replacing Isabelle Fray who has returned to reception. Kelly will be

available to accept orders, recommend purchases, and deal with account matters. Call (604) 893-2162, toll-free in Canada 1-800-663-0437, or e-mail Kelly at kskinner@cle.bc.ca

4th Annual Event for Law Librarians and Research Lawyers

CLE looks forward to hosting the law library community at our 4th annual event. We're sure you've already received your invitation in the mail and have reserved lunchtime on Thursday, May 4, 2000 for this event. If we haven't heard from you yet, be sure to contact Susanna Yan at CLE: 893-2134, Fax 669-9260, e-mail syan@cle.bc.ca. See you there!

Real Estate

The proclamation of the new *Strata Property Act* means significant changes to real estate practice in British Columbia. Extensive amendments are needed to most of CLE's real estate books, and work is now underway to update the *Real Estate Practice Manual*, the *Real Estate Development Practice Manual*, and *Collected Real Estate Precedents*. The materials from CLE's course on the *Strata Property Act*, to be held on May 11, 2000, will also become a valuable source of information for dealing with the new statute.

New Books

Annual Review of Law and Practice

CLE volunteer authors are working on the upcoming *Annual Review of Law and Practice*, current to January, 2000. Now in its ninth edition, the *Annual Review* provides an easy and affordable way to keep on top of pivotal issues and trends in B.C. law and practice. Each edition contains concise, accessible commentary about the main legislative, case law, and practice changes in B.C. Written by leading commentators, this indispensable resource will be available soon. Be sure to call CLE to reserve your copy now!

Buying & Selling a Business—Annotated Precedents

Work is nearly complete on *Buying & Selling a Business—Annotated Precedents*, the long-awaited collection of annotated precedents for business acquisitions. Sample asset purchase and share purchase agreements will be included, along with

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many other useful documents, all reviewed by our distinguished editorial board of Sholto Heberton, Q.C., John O.E. Lundell, and Christine Elliott. Publication is planned for this fall. Reserve your copy now!

Class Proceedings Act—Annotated

AVAILABLE NOW!

CLE is delighted to present a new book for lawyers involved in the management of class actions—a concise guide offering convenient access to the Act and to the issues being considered by the judiciary. The *Class Proceedings Act* imposes on lawyers and judges significant responsibilities beyond those in normal civil actions, but offers little guidance on how those responsibilities should be discharged. In writing *Class Proceedings Act—Annotated*, The Honourable Mr. Justice Frank Maczko set out to provide practical advice for those who must make decisions in the proceedings. He has created a handy, current reference brimming with precise commentary on the key issues. Organized as a series of discussions prompted by specific sections of the Act, this new guide is the book to keep at hand and to take to court. In addition to the practical and authoritative commentary, the book features the full text of the *Class Proceedings Act*, and summaries of all key action cases. This looseleaf service will be updated regularly as case law develops under the Act.

Quicklaw

Submitted by Jeff Purkiss

New Databases:

Federico and Rondinelli on DNA (YDNA)

Quicklaw is pleased to announce the launch of a comprehensive collection of materials on forensic DNA evidence, compiled by Ricardo G. Federico and Vincenzo Rondinelli of Toronto.

Forensic DNA evidence has proven to be an important tool in crime detection and in exonerating the wrongfully convicted. Parliament has codified DNA search warrant provisions in the Criminal Code and enacted legislation to create a Canadian DNA data bank. These and other developments have greatly increased interest in the topic.

Ricardo G. Federico assisted in the first Canadian DNA trial in 1987 and has since actively focused his law practice in this area. Federico chaired the First Annual Canadian Symposium on Forensic DNA Evidence (1998) and co-chaired the Second Symposium held in October 1999 at Osgoode Hall Law School. Vincenzo Rondinelli graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1995. He articulated and practised criminal law with Manning & Simone from 1995 to 1998 and is presently pursuing an LL.M. at Osgoode Hall Law School. Rondinelli's thesis relates to DNA Evidence and the Criminal Justice System.

Belzil Netletter on Creditors' Rights (BNCR)

New Quicklaw database BNCR contains the weekly Belzil Netletter on Creditors' Rights. The netletter contains summaries of recent court cases on bankruptcy, receivership, guarantees, liens and issues under the Personal Property Security Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act.

The BNCR Netletter is prepared by Françoise Belzil of Edmonton. Ms. Belzil practises in the area of creditors' rights with the law firm of Huckell Taskey & Belzil. In addition to reading and circulating the weekly BNCR Netletter issues, researchers may conduct in-depth research in the Belzil Caselaw Digests which are available in companion database BNCD. The BNCD digest collection contains a drill-down Quickword Index prepared by Ms. Belzil. When researchers select a topic from the Index, all digests on that topic are automatically retrieved and displayed.

Ms. Belzil obtained her LL.B. from the University of Victoria and was admitted to the Alberta bar in 1991. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the CCH Canadian Commercial Law Guide, and authored the section on Bankruptcy in that

publication. She has published numerous articles in the CCH Commercial Times and has recently become a contributor for Butterworth's National Creditor Debtor Review. Ms. Belzil authored the Guide to the Alberta Civil Enforcement Act College. For seven years Ms. Belzil has been providing case summaries to the Canadian Bar Association, Creditors' Rights Subsection (Alberta North).

Kershman Bankruptcy & Insolvency Netletter (KERN)

New Quicklaw database KERN contains the Kershman Bankruptcy & Insolvency Netletter. The netletter contains summaries of recent court cases added to Quicklaw.

The KERN Netletter is prepared by Stanley J. Kershman, an Ottawa lawyer specializing in bankruptcy and insolvency, creditor/debtor law, alternative dispute resolution, commercial and residential real estate, and wills and estates. Mr. Kershman has lectured on bankruptcy in both Canada and the United States, has written numerous published articles, and has advised on changes in Canadian bankruptcy legislation. He is a Deputy Judge in Ontario's small claims court system and a leading figure in a number of professional and community associations.

State Statutes and Regulations are added to United States Collection

Quicklaw's United States collection has expanded to include the following state statutes and regulations, kept current by legal editors at Quicklaw America in Bethpage, NY.

Illinois Compiled Statutes, with all newly enacted legislation integrated and Current to December 31, 1999 with continuing updating in progress.

Illinois Administrative Code, with all Illinois Register materials integrated and Current to December 1, 1999, with continuous updating in progress.

New Jersey Statutes, with recently enacted legislation current to October 1999, with continuous updating in progress.

New Jersey Administrative Code, with Illinois Register materials integrated and current to June 1999, with continuous updating in progress.

Quicklaw has also added to its United States collection the first 8 of a collection of 21 Court Rules for the United States federal courts system, plus state court rules for Illinois.

BC Courthouse Library Society

The following is an abbreviated version of an article originally written for The Advocate.

Last year, the B.C. Courthouse Library Society engaged the business consulting firm of Arthur Andersen to help develop a strategy to meet the challenge of providing an effective legal information service in the current fiscal environment. In the course of their analysis, Arthur Anderson surveyed members of our key user groups as a means to gain user input and provide insight into our users' needs. The results of this survey have been very useful in identifying possible new services and even some existing services of which our users were unaware.

Here is our response to some of the comments made in the survey. If you have any questions or further comments, please contact the reference staff of the Vancouver Courthouse Library at 660-2841, fax 660-2838 or by e-mail at bccls@bccls.bc.ca.

Periodicals and Journals

Many users felt more periodicals and journals should be added to our collection. Unfortunately, due to rapidly rising subscription costs, this may not be possible. What the library can do, however, is offer our users a comprehensive document delivery service. The Vancouver library has access to a number of document service companies and libraries who provide full text copies of reports and journal articles from a vast variety of sources. In most instances, copies are delivered to our library either electronically or by fax within 24 hours of placing an order. The library also has access to a number of online databases where full text reports and journal articles may be downloaded directly from the computer. Users can take advantage of this service by contacting our information services staff at the Vancouver Courthouse Library either by phone or e-mail.

Note-up Service

In answer to the question "Is there a specific service or source of information that BCCLS does not offer

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in which you are interested?”, several users suggested a note-up service. In fact, although the library no longer provides hand written annotations to case reports, we do offer our users an excellent note up service through the Quickcite database on Quicklaw. This database provides comprehensive and up to date coverage of Canadian case law. For a cost of \$20. for up to two cases noted up, reference staff at the Vancouver library will perform the search for you, providing you with an easy-to-read list of citing cases.

For American case law, the library has access to the Shepards citation service on Lexis-Nexis. We have recently negotiated a new contract with Lexis which will allow us to offer this service at a reduced cost to our users.

Unreported Decisions

Other comments centred around the availability of unreported decisions. One user wrote that the “only thing not readily available are unreported decisions - full text”. Another commented, “If I want an older case not on the judgments database, I either have to go to a Quicklaw search (quite expensive) or call Western Legal. I wish I could get all of the cases in one place”.

In the past year, the library has implemented a number of changes which have made unreported decisions much more accessible. First and foremost, we have negotiated a new contract with Quicklaw which allows us to charge only 55¢ per page (our regular photocopy charge) to print out any decision from Quicklaw’s databases. Quicklaw has expanded its databases in recent years and now boasts coverage of B.C. cases dating back to 1975. Our new print-out rate gives our users quick and affordable access to all of those decisions.

Secondly, the Vancouver library has recently obtained a large number of older unreported decisions of the B.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. These decisions date from 1969 to 1985

and have been added to our holdings. In addition, we are continuing to build our collection of Small Claims Court decisions. We also have negotiated agreements with various court libraries across Canada, enabling us to share in their resources.

There are a number of new sources for retrieving American case law as well. Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals and state appellate courts are now available on Quicklaw and VersusLaw, an American company that provides electronic copies via the Internet. Our regular photocopy charge of 55¢ per page applies to print out any decision from either of these databases. We also have access to the comprehensive collection of American case law available on Lexis-Nexis.

Computer Access

Perhaps the most frequent request made in our user survey was for more computers. Some representative comments were: “Need internet access”, “Better online services needed” and “Make it easier to access Vancouver collection from other communities”. With Vancouver acting as the main resource library for the province, quick and easy access to its resources is essential to meet the needs of all our users. Computerization is key and the Society has taken a number of steps in recent years to develop the technological infrastructure to support electronic communication and retrieval of information. For example, you can request and receive information from the Vancouver Library via e-mail. In 1998, we mounted our catalogue on the world-wide web, providing a fast and convenient method of searching our holdings. We are continuing to develop our website, adding new information daily. Users may now use the links on our website to access court decisions, reports and legislative material. Check our “What’s New” section for recent information on acts in force, the latest Supreme Court of Canada decisions and links to notable cases and reports of interest to the legal profession. We currently provide access to a number of Canadian and U.S. government, court and

legislative sites and intend to add many more links and resource material, making our website a comprehensive source of legal information for our users.

As more and more legal material is published in electronic format, the challenge will be to maintain a balance between our print collection and electronic material. In its report* to the Society, Arthur Andersen analysts stressed the importance of developing our website as a means to increase functionality. In keeping with this recommendation, the Society will continue to develop electronic means of communication and delivery of our services with the aim of providing an effective and efficient information service to all our users.

* *Strategic Positioning Project Report*, October 20, 1999.

Anyone interested in reading the full report prepared by Arthur Andersen for the Society may contact the Vancouver library at 660-2841, toll free 1-800-665-2570 or e-mail bccls@bccls.bc.ca, or visit our website www.bccls.bc.ca. Follow the link "About the BCCLS" to view the full text of the report.

We would like to thank all the participants in our survey for their valuable input. To encourage more feedback from our users, we have set up a suggestion box on our website. We invite all our users to forward to us any other comments or suggestions regarding our services.

INTERNET CORNER

Quick Reference to Conference Calendars

CLE - www.cle.bc.ca/

The Continuing Legal Education Society of BC presents courses and published materials to meet the unique educational requirements and practice needs of the legal profession in British Columbia.

Insight - www.insightinfo.com/

Insight Information Co. is a leading provider of conferences, seminars and reports on current legal, business, and regulatory issues in a range of fields, including corporate finance, health care, energy, taxation, human resources management, technology, and more.

Infonex - www.infonex.ca/

INFONEX is the recognized name in providing timely, useful business information to Canadian executives. They offer up-to-date, current business information in a variety of formats.

OSC/SEC financial reporting and Accounting course is an annual course organized by Infonex.

Canadian Institute - www.canadianinstitute.com/

The Canadian Institute is an independent, Canadian owned company, with subsidiaries in the United Kingdom (Euroforum) and the United States (American Conference Institute). Together with its subsidiaries, The Canadian Institute offers over 500 conferences and workshops each year, attended by more than 25,000 delegates, held in major Canadian and US cities and in London, England.

Federated Press - www.federatedpress.com/default.htm

Federated Press is one of Canada's leading professional and business publishers. Dozens of new conferences are launched each year by the company's conference division.

Strategy Insitute - www.strategyinstitute.com/

The Strategy Institute is an independent Canadian, research-based organization which monitors and communicates changes and trends in financial services, corporate finance, investments management, law, business, pharmaceuticals and health care. TEL: 416-944-8833 Fax: 416-944-0403

PLI-Practising Law Institute - www.pli.edu/

Practising Law Institute (PLI) is a non-profit continuing legal education organization chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, founded in 1933. PLI is dedicated to providing the legal community and allied professionals with the most up-to-date, relevant information and techniques which are critical to the development of a professional, competitive edge. PLI is headquartered in New York City with offices in California.

Ali-Aba - www.ali-aba.org/

In 1947 the American Bar Association (ABA) collaborated with the American Law Institute (ALI) to form a national program of continuing education of the bar. ALI-ABA, one of the premier providers of continuing legal education in the United States, offer members of the profession a comprehensive curriculum of post-admission legal education.

*** This makes a great Intranet resource!**