



THE CANADIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
Alberta Branch

# 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

# REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

## OLA MALIK



This last year has been one of growth and change for CBA Alberta. We have much to be proud of as an organization, including the approval of our new governance structure, and our advocacy conducted on behalf of the justice system in the recent provincial election.

The CBA is the only national association with the mandate of protecting the interests of the legal profession and promoting the rule of law. But in so doing, the CBA ultimately advocates for the public interest and Albertans' ability to access timely and effective legal services – because a strong and diverse legal profession is the best advocate for those Albertans who need our help.

As we leave the twenty-teens behind, we say farewell to our Provincial Council and former governance structure

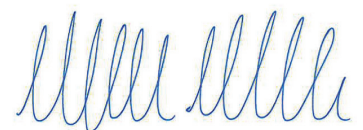
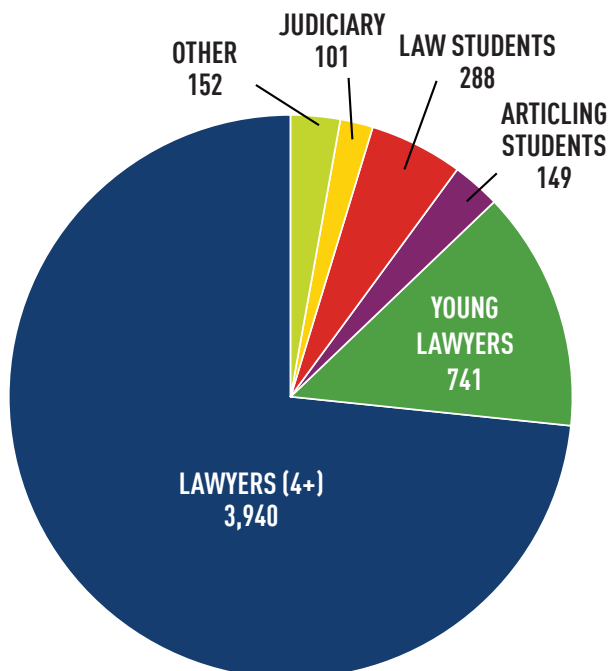
that served CBA Alberta for many years. After two years of intensive consultation with our membership, and after going back to the drawing board more than once, we officially amended our Branch bylaws in February 2019, to make our new governance model official. Our Provincial Council was replaced by a 13-member Board of Directors, comprised of the five Executive Committee members and eight additional directors representing the diversity of our membership. We are also introducing new ways for our membership to engage in CBA Alberta governance through an expanded Annual General Meeting and the new Leadership Forum, both of which will be open to our entire membership. These events are your opportunity to provide your input on the direction of your organization.

I am very proud of the advocacy efforts undertaken by the CBA Alberta in the past year. Prior to the 2019 provincial election, we released Justice Matters: An Agenda for Justice which outlined the most pressing justice system challenges facing Alberta. Once the writ was dropped, we held a media event to raise the profile of these justice issues. The subsequent media coverage elicited responses from major leaders on many of the issues. Justice Matters was also provided to all parties and lawyers running in the election as well as to our members to use as a reference when speaking to their local candidates. These efforts heightened our public profile as an advocate on justice issues and we will continue to work collaboratively in the justice sector to bring attention to matters such as access to justice and resourcing for Alberta's justice system.

Our achievements over the past year and the activities undertaken by CBA Alberta on a regular basis would not be possible without the support of our membership. Nearly one-fifth of our members volunteered with our organization in some capacity in 2018-19. I want to thank you all for your contributions and encourage you to continue participating to make your CBA the best that it can be.

### 2018-19 MEMBERSHIP

CBA Alberta ended the 2018-19 membership year with a total of 5,371 members. Our largest demographics are lawyers who have been members of the bar for four years or longer, and young lawyers who are within their first three years of call. We are also pleased to have strong participation from students attending law school in our province.



OLA MALIK, PRESIDENT

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## Access to Justice Week soft launch

In September 2018, the Access to Justice committee soft-launched Alberta Access to Justice Week, with the intention of expanding the offerings of the week in 2019. The committee worked with stakeholders in the access to justice and legal communities in Alberta to promote the important work done by organizations such as Pro Bono Law Alberta, the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta, and our province's many pro bono legal clinics.

We invite you to visit [www.albertaaccesstojustice.com](http://www.albertaaccesstojustice.com) to read more about Access to Justice Week and learn about the organizations improving access to justice in our province.

## CBA West

In April 2019, we partnered with the CBA BC Branch to host the second CBA West conference. CBA West 2018 took members from Alberta and British Columbia to BC's wine country for three days of professional development and networking in Penticton. Highlights included the gala dinner, when we welcomed The Honourable Thomas Cromwell, former Justice on the Supreme Court of Canada, and PD sessions which featured the best of the profession from around North America.

## Courthouses throw open their doors for Law Day

In communities across Alberta in March and April 2019, CBA Alberta hosted Law Day events to recognize the signing of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Law Day programming gives the public the opportunity to become more familiar with, and increase the understanding of our justice system. Law Day activities include summary legal advice clinics, mock trials, courthouse tours, which were all made possible by the support of nearly 100 volunteers across the province.

## Professional development

In addition to Section meetings, we offered a number of exciting professional development opportunities for members throughout 2018-19. Our popular Savvy Lawyers Series returned in the fall with "Lawyers in Political Office", a panel discussion with former and current elected representatives that included Kathleen Ganley (then) Minister of Justice & Solicitor General, the Honourable Judge Dave Hancock, former Premier of Alberta, and the Honourable Anne McLellan, former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. The Savvy Lawyers Series also hosted a panel of Court of Queen's Bench justices in "Courtroom Advocacy 2.0: More views from the bench."

2018 also saw the launch of the Inns of Court program in

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(as of August 31, 2019)

	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>	3,173,143	2,841,976
<b>Liabilities</b>	299,628	294,612
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>2,873,515</b>	<b>2,547,364</b>

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(for the year ended August 31, 2019)

	2019	2018
<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>Membership Revenue</b>	1,309,361	1,271,458
<b>Sections Revenue</b>	540,957	591,699
<b>Other</b>	344,682	301,473
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,195,000</b>	<b>2,164,630</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Personnel - Staff</b>	835,047	780,944
<b>Administrative</b>	471,232	515,866
<b>Sections</b>	281,017	294,184
<b>Committees</b>	165,596	137,221
<b>Personnel - Officers</b>	106,989	118,971
<b>Meetings</b>	32,681	22,215
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,892,562</b>	<b>1,869,401</b>
<b>Other Items</b>	23,713	(77,408)
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>326,151</b>	<b>217,821</b>

For a copy of CBA Alberta's audited financial statements, email [mail@cba-alberta.org](mailto:mail@cba-alberta.org).

Calgary. The Inns of Court program is an opportunity for young lawyers to hear presentations on topics that are important to those in the early years of practice, and to connect with senior members of the bench and bar. The program has been running successfully in Edmonton for many years, and we are pleased to now offer it to our members in Calgary.

## Farwell to the Alberta Council

After nearly two years of planning and consultation, our membership voted to approve bylaw changes at the February 2019 Annual General Meeting which gave effect to the new governance model, replacing the Provincial Council with a Board of Directors and with enhanced engagement opportunities for our members.

The final Council meeting was held on May 16 in Calgary, where we celebrated and thanked those who have been dedicated Council members throughout their careers.

## 2018-19 SECTIONS

**69**  
SECTIONS

Sections are the lifeblood of CBA Alberta and the channel through which much of our professional development is delivered. In 2018-19, there were 69 Sections available to members between Calgary and Edmonton, 42 of which were available by webcast for those unable to join us in person. In total, over 450 Section meetings were held across the province.

**450+** SECTION MEETINGS

Throughout the year, our dedicated Section Executive Committees, supported by our Section Registrars and volunteer Section Coordinators in Calgary and Edmonton, organized first-rate lunch and learn sessions and welcomed distinguished speakers such as the Chief of the Commission and Tribunals for the Alberta Human Rights Commission, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta, current and former members of the judiciary, and many other members of the legal profession and subject matter experts.

## 2018-19 VOLUNTEERS

**819**  
VOLUNTEERS

Much of the programming and services offered by CBA Alberta would not be possible without the support of our members who volunteer their time throughout the year. In 2018-19, over 800 CBA members volunteered by sitting on the Provincial Council, sitting on committees, presenting at Section meetings and contributing to *Law Matters*.

## 2019-20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ola Malik** (President), **David Hiebert** (Vice President), **Bianca Kratt** (Treasurer), **Amanda Lindberg** (Secretary), **Frank Friesacher** (Past President), **Maureen Armitage** (Executive Director), **Jasmine Girgis** (Director), **Bryne Harding** (Director), **Robert Harvie, Q.C.** (Director), **Patrick Heinsen** (Director), **Michelle Karasinski** (Director), **Kyle Kawanami** (Director), **Sheizana Murji** (Director), **Adam Norget** (Director)

## CBA ALBERTA STAFF

**Maureen Armitage** (Executive Director), **Linda Chapman** (South Section Registrar), **Erica Jago** (Interim South Section Registrar), **Tara Iles** (Bookkeeper), **Kimberly Russell-Legister** (North Section Assistant), **Holly Schlaht** (Executive Assistant), **Melissa Surette** (Member Services Coordinator), **Heather Walsh** (Administrator & North Section Registrar), **Lee-Anne Wright** (Communications & Marketing Specialist)



THE CANADIAN  
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