



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
Saskatchewan Branch

ELECTION FOR CBASK 2023-2024 TREASURER CANDIDATE STATEMENT – Ashley Smith



Ashley Smith

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CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I have been a proud and active Canadian Bar Association (“CBA”) member since my first year of law school. The CBA introduced me to a community of enthusiastic, engaged and innovative lawyers and it would be an honor to serve the CBA as the SK Branch Treasurer. I am hard working, organized, passionate and prepared for the challenges of serving on the CBA executive. The following is a summary of the wide variety of experience and skills I would bring to the task:

Provincial and National CBA Experience: I am very familiar with the CBA both provincially and nationally. I have served as a mock interview volunteer; a member of the SK Mid-Winter Meeting and Privacy & Access Law National Symposium planning committees; a member of the National Communications and Privacy & Access Law executives; Chair of the Privacy Law North Section; a *BarNotes* contributor; a six year member of the *BarNotes* editorial board, including two as editor; and a presenter at both national and provincial CBA conferences and section lunches.

Commitment to the Saskatchewan Bar & Our Community: Born and raised in SK, I chose to stay and practice here. I love our province and its people and try to give back as much as possible through volunteer work. Mentorship and teaching our future lawyers is also very important to me.

Leadership: I spent six years on the board of the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association (“STLA”) and six years on the St. Thomas More (“STM”) Board of Governors. I served in all of the STLA executive roles, including President and as Chair for three years at STM. This experience went beyond leadership at the boardroom table and included advocacy on behalf of the organizations, funding and budgets, organizing conferences/events and working with large and diverse stakeholder groups. This experience closely aligns with the requirements of CBA SK executive members. I have also received my Professional Director designation, which involved extensive training regarding governance best practices.

Moving Forward:

If elected, I am committed to ensuring that our membership continues to receive:

- ***affordable, quality professional development;***
- ***valuable benefits*** from their membership;
- ***support*** both as a person and as a professional;
- ***a platform for advocacy work*** on behalf of the profession; and
- ***opportunities for continued camaraderie*** amongst our colleagues.

The CBA’s national initiatives of truth & reconciliation; wellness; legal futures; equal justice and equality are no less important in Saskatchewan and ***work on these CBA initiatives must continue to be supported and initiated at the provincial level.***

I am committed to supporting the work and initiatives of the CBA SK Branch. I hope you will vote for me as your next CBA SK Branch Treasurer. If you would like to speak further or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ashley.smith@police.saskatoon.sk.ca or 306-975-2246.

BIOGRAPHY

Ashley received her LL.B. from the University of Saskatchewan (“U of S”) in 2007 and articulated at the Court of Queen’s Bench in Saskatoon. The following year she clerked at the Federal Court of Canada while also completing her LL.M. and Diploma in Justice System Administration from Osgoode Hall Law School. After completing her clerkships, Ashley practiced civil litigation at a major law firm in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan until moving to the Saskatoon Police Service as Director of Legal Services in late 2015. She also served as counsel for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police at the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Ashley has been published in numerous journals, authored one book, *Victim Impact Statements: Past, Present and a Look to the Future* and presented at provincial, national and international conferences on various legal topics. She has also obtained her Professional Director designation and is a Trademark Agent.

Ashley has been an active member of the Canadian Bar Association (“CBA”) since her first year of law school. Her volunteer CBA experience includes being a mock interview volunteer; a member of the 2013 Mid-Winter Meeting Planning Committee; the opening ceremonies anthem singer for the 2013 National CBA Meeting; a member of the National Communications Committee from 2013-2015 and a presenter at both national and provincial CBA conferences and section lunches. Ashley’s longest serving commitment to the CBA was through *Barnotes*. Starting as a contributor, she then joined the editorial board and served on it for six years, two as Editor. Since leaving the editorial board, Ashley served as Chair of the Privacy Law North Section (2018-2022) and is a member of the National Privacy & Access Law executive (2018 to present) and a member of the Privacy & Access Law National Symposium planning committee (2020-present).

Ashley is actively involved in her community and the arts. She has served as President of the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association and as Chair of the St. Thomas More College Board of Governors at the U of S. Currently she is Chair of the Saskatoon Symphony’s Steering Committee for a Home for Music, Chair of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police MMIWG Committee and a member of the Sopinka Cup Moot Competition planning committee and the St. Thomas More Lawyers’ Guild. She is a sessional lecturer at the U of S College of Law where she teaches criminal trial advocacy. She is past coach of the Western Canada Moot Team, where her teams placed in the top three nationally on five occasions, winning the national title three times.

Notable awards include a YWCA Women of Distinction Award, a U of S Alumni Achievement Award, a Lexpert Rising Stars Award, a STLA Justice W. Frank Gerein Memorial Award, awards from the Saskatchewan, Canadian and International Association of Chiefs of Police and a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.