



Steve Dribnenki

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Why I am running

I have been involved with CBA Saskatchewan for several years, and want to help it build back stronger after COVID-19 by focusing on three main goals:

- **Engagement:** engaging members to strengthen links between us
- **Innovation:** using technology and new ideas to link members
- **Reconciliation:** building on CBA Saskatchewan's work responding to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

I have experienced how the CBA unifies lawyers across the province and Canada and builds legal practices through professional development and collegiality, including:

- Serving as Chair of the 2020 CBA Saskatchewan Mid-Winter Meeting Planning Committee and as member of the 2018 Mid-Winter Meeting Planning Committee;
- Serving as Chair of the Public Sector and Municipal Law Section South from 2014 to 2019;
- Successfully completing the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association Certified In-House Counsel course in 2019; and
- Currently serving as Chair of the CBA Municipal Law Section (2020-21).

The insights and relationships gained from my involvement with the CBA led to opportunities to work on issues in the sectors where I have practiced. This includes helping establish the Saskatchewan Municipal Law Conference in partnership with city solicitors from Regina and Saskatoon while I was with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. Since 2016, the conference has brought together municipal law lawyers for professional development, collaboration, and collegiality.

Engagement is critical in this time of physical distance. The CBA Saskatchewan's strength is in the links between its members. Re-establishing those links and building back stronger can be achieved by:

- Reaching out to members to learn we can continue to serve them and improve our service;
- Enhancing the section experience with new ways for members to participate; and
- Emphasizing our partnerships and enhance opportunities for their support.

Innovation means acknowledging that there is no going back to “business as usual”. The lessons learned in responding to the challenges of the pandemic can be used to turn this fundamental disruption into new, better ways of meeting member needs, including:

- Using technology for better services and focusing on collegiality when in-person events return;
- Focusing on member supports and understanding the effects of the pandemic on practice; and
- Adding new ways for law students, articling students, and young lawyers to get involved.

Reconciliation may be the most pressing issue and significant opportunity in Saskatchewan. We can build on CBA Saskatchewan’s work in responding to the Calls to Action by:

- Amplifying the voices and work done by Indigenous leaders in the Saskatchewan Bar;
- Highlighting First Nations and Métis success in the Saskatchewan legal community; and
- Reaching out to leading First Nations and Métis individuals and organizations in continuing to develop responses to the calls.

Who I am

As Legal Counsel at the Brandt Group of Companies, I represent Brandt in its dealings across Canada and United States, working on litigation, corporate law, and privacy law matters. My primary focus is litigation, as lead counsel handling the matter or providing instructions to firms retained by Brandt. I joined Brandt in March 2020.

From 2014 to 2020, I was Legal and Policy Advisor with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), a municipal organization representing cities, towns, villages, and northern communities across Saskatchewan. During my time with SUMA, I helped members with legal issues and worked with federal, provincial, municipal governments and organizations on legislation, programs, and policies touching on municipal governance and administration.

Prior to 2014, I was an associate at a Saskatchewan private law firm, and practiced civil and criminal law, including insurance defence, federal public prosecutions, and criminal defence.

I received both my Bachelor of Laws (2005) and Bachelor of Arts (2006) from the University of Saskatchewan, and was called to the Saskatchewan Bar in 2008.

In my spare time, I stay home, because, well, pandemic. At home I enjoy spending time with my wife and playing with and singing to my one and a half year old daughter.