

Canadian Bar Association – Distinguished Service Award  
Introduction of Paul Korpan, Q.C. by Greg Walen, Q.C.  
January 31, 2020, Regina Saskatchewan

It is an honour and my privilege to introduce my good friend and colleague, Paul Korpan Q.C. as the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Service Award of the Canadian Bar Association, Saskatchewan Branch.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes the recipient's exceptional contributions and achievements relating to the law in Saskatchewan and Canada. I want to take a few moments to tell you about the man and why he so well deserves this honour.

Paul was born in 1957 in Melville Saskatchewan. Shortly thereafter, Paul moved with his family to Regina where, but for the three years at law school in Saskatoon, he has resided since. He attended the University of Regina, Faculty of Arts and Science from 1974 to 1976 and the University of Saskatchewan, College of Law from 1976 to 1979, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws degree.

Paul articulated at the then Macpherson Leslie Tyerman firm from 1979 to 1980 and following his admission to the Bar, he joined his present firm Kanuka Thuringer which, at the time he joined as an associate had one of the longest law firm names in the province Hleck, Kanuka, Thuringer, Semenchuk, Sandomirsky, Boyd and Baker. Paul became a partner at Kanuka Thuringer in 1986. To show you the esteem that his partners have for him, he is presently the Chairperson of the partnership.

Paul and his wife Rhonda have been married for 33 years and have three successful children, Greg, Michelle and Roxanne. Rhonda, Greg and Michell are here today. Unfortunately, Roxanne was unable to be

here but I can assure you that Paul's entire family is immensely proud of Paul and his accomplishments.

It is against this backdrop that I wanted to talk of Paul's many accomplishments which largely fall into four themes. As an aside, Paul would be the last person to talk of these contributions as warranting this award, so I am going to. Paul once said to me "your horn sounds louder when somebody else is blowing it" so here we go:

The first theme or contribution is to the continuing education of our profession. In addition to being a mentor to many lawyers in his firm and beyond, Paul has delivered papers and lectured at conferences (too many to mention) on topics focusing on family law matters to such organizations as the Canadian Bar Association, Law Society of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association and SKLESI before it was wound up in 2008.

As a measure of his notoriety outside the province, Paul has lectured and presented at the Federation of Law Society's National Family Law Program. He has presented and lectured at the National Judicial Institute, where Superior Court judges receive ongoing education, and where very few practitioners are invited to present.

I have the privilege of teaching Family Law at the College of law and have done so for many years. I regularly invite Paul to come to Saskatoon to lecture to my class on very discrete legal matters . He genuinely embraces these opportunities. Paul has a genuine intellectual curiosity about the law and my students are the wiser for it.

The second theme, so to speak, is Paul's contribution to the regulation of our profession. From 2007 to 2012, Paul was a Bencher of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. He was Vice-President of the Law Society in 2010 and President in 2012. I had the pleasure of being the Vice-President of the Law Society when Paul was President. It was his

work with the Law Society before Paul got on the Executive that warrants accolades. Paul was the Chair of the Law Society Discipline Committee in 2008 and 2009. As Chair of the Discipline Executive, Paul chaired most discipline matters involving a penalty of suspension or greater. In those days, the Benchers, as a whole, decided such cases. Paul moved the Benchers to adopt a more disciplined approach to decision making, and to give written reasons, when we did not do so before. Quite properly, these decisions involved a review of the evidence, the relevant jurisprudence from Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions, analysis of the relevant factors, and the resulting conclusion. This was a major step forward for the Law Society and this approach to decision making has become the norm. It became transparent and defensible.

The next theme and perhaps the one that sets him apart is Paul's reputation as one of the finest family lawyers in this province. This view is shared, not only by members of his own firm but by lawyers throughout Saskatchewan and beyond. He has been constantly recognised as a leader by peer reviewed rating services including LEXPERT and Best Lawyers in Canada. In 2013, 2016 and 2019 Paul was identified as "Lawyer of the Year" in Regina for family law by Best Lawyers in Canada which is clear sign of his notoriety.

Paul received his Queen Counsel designation in 2005.

It goes beyond that, however. His contributions have been (and continue to be) delivered in the family law field, where many dabble, but few truly specialize. The work demands a unique currency where the law develops more quickly than other areas and where the practice requires expertise in family law and the many commercial aspects of family law litigation involving income determination, business valuations, trust law and tax matters.

On a personal note, I've always been impressed by Paul's attention to detail in everything that he does. I am sure it must drive some of

his partners crazy but, if it's a fault at all, it's a fault that I would like to have. Paul is a solicitor in barristers robes.

In practice, Paul is what we consider "A Lawyer's Lawyer". A student of the law who thinks beyond the task at hand and is view as visionary.

The last theme that I wanted to focus on is Paul's involvement and leadership outside of the direct legal sphere. From 2007 to 2015, Paul was a commissioner with the Saskatchewan Police Commission and Chaired the Police Commission from 2009 to 2015. As Chair of the Commission, Paul chaired and wrote the decisions of the Commission. While there a very few of these cases, they are important to the policing and general community.

When Paul was Chair of the Police Commission, the Commission established an effective policy authorizing the use of Tasers. This was a significant undertaking, occurring in the wake of high profile cases involving the use of Tasers and fatalities, and controversial science

Paul played a significant role in his church- Lakeview United being, at this point, the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Over the last 25 years he has volunteered for Scouts Canada as a Youth Leader, Wilderness Camp participant and member of various boards and working groups. The list of his community involvement just goes on and on.

Apart from his work as a practitioner, all of Paul's contributions have been voluntary.

Friends and colleagues, I am proud to introduce this year's recipient of the Canadian Bar Association- Saskatchewan Branch's Distinguished Service Award, Paul Korpan, Q.C.