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July 1 – December 31, 2016

# Volunteer Appreciation



**Kristin Ailsby**  
Clarity Law

Called to the Alberta Bar in 2003, Kristin has become an accredited mediator, collaborator, and experienced litigator. She practices in three key areas at Clarity Law in Lethbridge: Family, Wills and Estates, and Real Estate. Kristin is actively involved in the Southern Alberta community and was recently appointed chair of the Lethbridge College Board of Governors.

Kristin's most recent contributions to LESA include being a faculty member at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Law & Practice Update and the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Refresher: Real Estate. Kristin also recently chaired our Client Relationship Essentials program in Edmonton.

### How did you become interested in law?

I've always been exceptionally interested in concepts like human rights, justice, and the relationship between social change and legislation. I really enjoyed my graduate experience contemplating theories of rights and justice; however, it wasn't tangible enough. I wanted to make more substantive contributions, so my advisors in graduate school said, "why don't you think about doing a law degree?", which I realize in retrospect wasn't a stretch.

### How did you come to choose your areas of practice?

I really like helping clients solve problems, and I like a close one-on-one relationship with them. I feel that my interests balance well with the family and estate law

practice areas, and I do residential real estate because I absolutely love real estate. That has been a personal and a family interest for a long time.

### What do you enjoy most about the legal profession?

Clients invite you into their lives to help them – it's an invitation, so that's what really motivates me. You go to work and each day will be different and each problem will require a different skill set, and I really enjoy that. I feel quite privileged to be a part of that with a client.

### What motivates you to volunteer?

I believe that we have a moral obligation to return to our communities. As lawyers we are a privileged group in that we have access to resources that allow us to make substantive changes in people's lives. We will only be able to retain the ability to change people's lives through legislation, justice, and problem solving if we actually use them for the people who need it. I volunteer my time because I think it's the right thing to do.

### What advice do you have for articling students?

Find out what motivates you and the area of law will come naturally. If you're a person who is motivated by quick-paced, fast transactions, you could be happy in criminal law or commercial real estate. If you are motivated by creating real social change in this world, you need to get in front of the Court of Appeal as often as you can. Once you figure out what motivates you, then the areas of practice that are like that should work.

*"I volunteer because I get so much from it. There is never an interaction that I have as a result of a volunteer experience where I don't leave feeling better and knowing more."*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Legal Education Society of Alberta is always looking for volunteers. There are many ways you can get involved: online or face-to-face CPLED facilitator or evaluator, CLE seminar chair or faculty, author, reviewer, editor, blogger, online course contributor, script writer, or actor.

In addition to keeping current with developments in the field, the benefits of volunteering for LESA include recognition by the profession, social networking opportunities, and being able to focus on your expertise while expanding your skill set.

### To volunteer, contact us at:

780.420.1987 | 1.800.282.3900 (toll free in AB)

*If you volunteered for us between July and December 2016, please ensure your name is on the list. If your name has been missed, please contact us.*

The success of our programs relies on the generous contributions of time, talent, and energy from all our volunteers. We greatly appreciate the work of our volunteers and their service to the profession.



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 a great success!*

