

New President, Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch)

by Karen Nordlinger, Q.C.

Barbara Jo Nelson was born Barbara Jo Branston in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, a few years ago. Sometime later, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Calgary in 1973 as Barbara Jo Froese. She then moved to Vancouver, and obtained her law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1976, and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1977. Recently, she has been acclaimed President of the Canadian Bar Association (B. C. Branch) as Barbara Jo Nelson.

She articulated to G. J. Lecovin and was associated in the practice of law with Mr. Lecovin for approximately four years. It seems they saw eye to eye. Barbara then decided to move again. This time, she decided upon the rural dream (obviously forgetting about Moose Jaw), and moved to White Rock, where she practised with the then firm of Deedman, Taylor & Nelson for approximately two years. The twinkling city lights then enticed her back to Vancouver. Barbara has practised as a sole practitioner in the downtown Vancouver area since that time, and has established a very successful Family Law practice.

Barbara's work for the Bar began in what I know she believes to be the most important aspect of the Canadian Bar Association; that is, the sub-sections. She was the Secretary of the Family Law Section from 1978 to 1980 and Chairman of that Section from 1980 to 1982. She has been an elected member of the Provincial Council since 1983, and rose through the ranks of the Executive to the heady heights she has now achieved.

As well, the Bar has benefited greatly from her participation in several courses for Continuing Legal Education on various aspects of family law. Barb has also contributed a great deal of time and energy to the joint Legal Aid Liaison Committee of the Law Society of British Columbia and the Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch) and she has proven herself to be a forceful negotiator on our behalf.

She has worked extremely hard in all of her endeavours, not the least of which has been her career as a mother. She has raised a lovely daughter, Donna, who has just graduated from high school and will be attending school in France for the next year.

I have it on good authority that Barb's extracurricular activities, aside from changing her last name, include sunbathing (preferably in Mexico), cycling and shopping. Especially shopping.

Her charm, wit and energy will stand her in good stead in the busy year to come, and she deserves our support.