

On The Front Cover

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

Russell W. Lusk

Russell Lusk is the new President of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. Russell's dedication and commitment to the B.C. Branch are well known. It is only recently, however, that he has attained the highest levels of the CBA. The reason for this recent success has, until now, remained a secret.

Russell was born in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Manitoba in 1965 and his Law Degree from the University of British Columbia in 1968. He was called to the Bar in 1969 and like many other members of the 60's generation immediately began travelling in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, searching for the experience that would change his life. This would come later.

Russell returned from his travels to practise in Vancouver in the areas of Civil Litigation and Competition Law. His civil litigation practice has been primarily in the commercial field. He has acted as counsel in a number of complex civil and criminal cases under the Competition Act in British Columbia and Alberta, having been called to the Alberta Bar.

Russell began his involvement in the Canadian Bar Association immediately. Between 1970 and 1974, he advanced from Secretary to Chairman of the Young Lawyers' Section of the B.C. Branch. In 1976, he joined the National Executive Committee and National Planning Committee of the CBA.

In 1971, he was a founding Director of the Lawyers' Inn, now the Law Courts Inn. In 1974, he was elected to the Executive Committee of the Vancouver Bar Association. He also lectured in Commercial Law at the University of British Columbia and has been a regular instructor at CLE programs.

A hiatus occurred in Russell's public life from about 1978 until 1984. Until now, it has not been known what event changed his life and brought him to the high position he now holds. Diligent research has revealed that on August 6, 1984, while playing in the well-known golf classic — The Annual Johnston's Canyon Invitational (on the 8th hole of the Banff Springs Golf Course) — in the presence of several dues-paying members of the Canadian Bar Association, including its future National President, Russell hit one crisp shot — the "Shot That Was Heard Round the World" — scoring a hole-in-one.

This was not an ordinary hole-in-one. Instead of proceeding directly to the hole, once it had passed over a lake, the ball veered to the left, totally missed the green and entered the deep woods. It landed on a rock and bounced a further 30 feet up the

mountain. It nearly came to rest behind a tree but proceeded to roll down a steep incline, through a sand trap (narrowly missing a rake), through a clump of grass and on to the green. Once there, it took a 45 foot meander into the hole without touching the flagstick. Having achieved this feat, it was apparent to Russell that anything was possible.

Visitors to Russell's home can see the commemorative shrine which honours this event (although there has been a considerable clamor for memorabilia from golfing members of the profession, a few items — photos, tees, balls — are still available, for a modest charge, of course).

Since this event, Russell's success in all areas including the Canadian Bar Association has known no bounds. At the B.C. Branch level, he has served as Chairman of the Civil Litigation Section, as an elected member of the Provincial Council, a member-at-large of the Executive Committee, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, Secretary-Treasurer and Vice-President.

At the national level, Russell has served on the Legislation and Law Reform Committee, the Finance Committee, the Membership Committee as well as the National Executive Committee.

Russell is married to Corinna and has two children, Jennifer and Sarah. He is a member of the Point Grey Golf Club and enjoys skiing when time permits.

Since 1976, he has been a partner in Ladner Downs. Russell is able to make such a full contribution to the profession and carry on a busy litigation practice by never leaving anything to the last minute.

He will serve us well in his term as President.

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