

On The Front Cover J.J. Camp, Q.C.

by Russell W. Lusk, Q.C.

On August 21, 1991, J.J. Camp became the 63rd President of the Canadian Bar Association. He is the 10th lawyer from British Columbia to occupy that position during the 76-year life of the Association.

J.J. was born on December 14, 1943, at Kamloops, British Columbia. He was given the names James John but quickly took a liking to the more interesting appellation of J.J. He graduated from Oak Bay High School in Victoria, following which he obtained a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from the University of Victoria in 1965 and an LL.B. from the University of British Columbia in 1969. In 1965-66 he spent a year with the Communications Branch of the National Research Council in Ottawa. He was called to the Bar in 1970.

J.J. articulated with and has spent his entire practising career with Ladner Downs in Vancouver. His success in the legal profession was not unexpected. However, it was with some surprise that Thomas Ladner, Q.C., received from J.J.'s mother, on the day that he was invited to join the firm, a telegram stating:

"You are indeed lucky and should be grateful that my son, J.J., has joined your firm."

J.J. inherited many of his mother's personality traits including an informal but forceful style.

This informality was soon apparent. Early in his career he arrived at work in the summertime dressed in dark blue shorts, white stockings, and a white shirt without a tie, and announced that he would be setting a new liberated style for the firm. It was his only appearance in that outfit. However, that was only the beginning of J.J.'s difficulties with clothing. He dislikes shopping. The style of his wardrobe may be described as "early scarecrow". It was not until a thief broke into his car during a vacation and stole most of his clothes that an improvement took place. The thief must have been overcome with disappointment upon opening J.J.'s suitcases.

J.J. is well-known for his numerous adventures and escapades. Friends have recently presented him with "The J.J. Camp Outrageous Acts Record, Volume 1".

For the past 21 years J.J.'s law practice has been in civil litigation, principally involving insurance and tort law. He is a leading counsel in those areas, but his practice has also included other fields. He was counsel in the leading **Charter** case in the Supreme Court of Canada **Reference re: Section 94(2), B.C. Motor Vehicle Act**, [1985] 2 S.C.R. 486 and counsel for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association in **Re: Medical Services Act** [1988], 24 B.C.L.R. (2d) 189 which struck down B.C. legislation dealing with non-funding of abortions. He has also been counsel in a number of energy hearings and, in recent years, in asbestos litigation. J.J. has never hesitated to undertake legal aid cases and those involving public interest issues. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1986.

J.J. has a long record of Canadian Bar Association activities. He has been both Provincial and National Chairperson of the Insurance Law Section. In 1981, he was elected Treasurer of the B.C. Branch and became its President in 1983-84. He was a

member of the National C.B.A. Judicial Appointments Committee from 1985-88, being its Chairperson for three years. In 1989, he organized the Annual Meeting of the C.B.A. held in Vancouver and was elected National Treasurer of the C.B.A.

Other professional and community activities have not been neglected. He was a founding director of the Lawyers' Inn, now the Law Courts Inn. He has been a frequent lecturer in C.L.E. programs, principally on the subjects of insurance, tort law and damages. In 1981, he was a guest lecturer at the Sir Isaac Pitblado Law Lectures in Winnipeg. He was instrumental in setting up the B.C. Legal Aid Task Force, served on the B.C. Review Committees on Changes to Human Rights Legislation and on Automobile Tort Reform, as well as on the Board of Directors of the B.C. Public Interest Advocacy Centre and the Vancouver Academy of Music.

J.J. has tried his hand at many sports. He played basketball with the Oak Bay team which competed in several high school championships. He was the first Commissioner of the Lawyers' Softball League in Vancouver. In addition, he hikes, plays raquetball, golf and tennis, and skis. Having used up some of his nine lives while parachuting, rafting, hang gliding and scuba diving, J.J. continues to be an avid mountain climber. This is in spite of having suffered injuries in a recent mountain climbing accident as well as during one of his escapades when he attempted to scale the Banff Springs Hotel during the late hours of a CBA meeting. The only known thing which terrifies J.J. (and all of those watching) is having to make a putt under 24" in a golf game with 20 or 30 bets hanging on the result.

Anne Camp has been married to J.J. for 25 years and has supported J.J. with patience and dignity in his diverse and frequently colourful activities. They have a son, Jason, and a daughter, Andrea, both of whom are students at the University of Victoria.

The 63rd President brings to the task a wealth of experience in Bar matters, an openness of style and boundless energy. This brings the assurance that the goals of the Canadian Bar Association will be furthered considerably during his year as President.

U.S. IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY QUESTIONS?

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