

On the Front Cover: Brian J. Wallace, Q.C.

Effective January 1, 1993, Brian J. Wallace, Q.C. assumes the office of Treasurer of the Law Society of British Columbia. Brian's career at the Bar has been a very distinguished and successful one and his tireless service to the profession, both as a Bencher and through his work on many Law Society committees over the past years, is well-known. His ascendancy to the highest office in the body that governs lawyers in British Columbia is regarded as a natural progression that is both well-deserved and of obvious benefit to the profession.

Martindale Hubbell records that Brian was born on September 5, 1942. While that directory also states that he was born in "Victoria, B.C.", those who know him and his sensibilities would understand that a more precise pinpointing of his birthplace as "Oak Bay" would better capture his beginnings. His father was a professor of Mathematics at the University of Victoria and ultimately became Chancellor of that university during Brian's youth. The senior Wallace was a great friend and supporter of rugby at UVic and, in recognition of that, the grounds where that game is played there are officially known as "Wallace Field".

After attending Oak Bay High School, Brian went on to study for his B.A. in Political Science, and then his LL.B.—both at U.B.C. Upon graduating with his law degree, Brian took articles with Harman & Co. in Victoria where he was hired by the now-retired McIntyre J. and where his principal was McKenzie J. After being called to the Bar, Brian joined the Trade Commissioner Service (now part of the Department of External Affairs) in which he served for three years, two being in a posting to Mexico City. Upon returning to Canada he accepted a position with the Department of Justice in Ottawa. There began the development of his expertise and interest in tax litigation which continues to the present. One of his colleagues during that assignment was Marvin R.V. Storrow, Q.C.

In due course, Brian fled the frigid Ottawa winters and returned to his native West Coast and joined Lawson Lundell Lawson & McIntosh in 1975 where he continued his work in tax under the able guidance of, among others, the late David G. Sweet. He was admitted to partnership at Lawson Lundell in 1977 and remains with the firm to this day.

Over the years, Brian's interest in tax problems broadened to include the real property assessment field—an area in which his knowledge and expertise are widely recognised. Legislative draughtsmen (draughtspersons?) have been kept very busy over the years rewriting the *Assessment Act* to keep pace with the innovative arguments he has successfully made on behalf of his many clients. Brian practises extensively in the administrative law area, appearing before various boards and tribunals. He has also helped to shape the evolving *Charter* jurisprudence in this country through his thoughtful and well-conceived submissions in noteworthy cases such as *Wilson v. Medical Services Commission of British Columbia*, (1988) 30 B.C.L.R. (2d) 1 (perhaps better known as the "Billing Numbers" or "Bill 41" appeal).

Brian and his wife Marilyn are the proud parents of two daughters. Erin, 18, is in her first year of studies at Reed College in Portland, Oregon (Arts and Music). Anna,

13, attends Crofton House School and, in addition to her studies, is an avid equestrian. The Wallace family travels extensively. Brian has always made time to vacation with Marilyn and the children, often abroad or to places within British Columbia but off the beaten path. The Wallace family are also dedicated supporters of the Vancouver Symphony and the Vancouver Opera.

For reasons readily apparent from an examination of the caricature that graces the front cover, Brian has had a particular fondness for hats for some years now. It is said that he has a large collection of hats of every conceivable type and kind and that they are tastefully displayed on an impressive wall rack at the Wallace home. Other passions include early morning squash and manoeuvring his immaculate 1969 British racing green Morgan "4/4", top down, through the twists and turns of challenging country roads. Golf is a comparatively new affectation. Many have admired his golf attire, vocabulary, etiquette and equipment.

Brian's recent and mysterious absence from the Art Committee at Lawson Lundell has been the subject of a good deal of hushed speculation. Few verified facts are available. Whether or not the elephantine paper-clip sculpture he selected as an "adornment" (*sic*) to one of the reception areas in his firm's new offices had a bearing upon that absence is not fully known. It may be that in time history will record that, in matters of Art, Brian J. Wallace, Q.C., had a vision that exceeded that of his partners and associates. In the meantime, the firm's executive committee is relieved that the cost of the six metre by nine metre staple puller was outside the limits of his budget.

The importance of the position of Treasurer of the Law Society of British Columbia is widely recognised within the profession. Numerous issues confronting society today also challenge our profession. There is a public expectation that lawyers, and the body that governs them, will address these issues openly and fairly. We have a responsibility to set a positive example in areas such as the eradication of gender bias.

Brian's ability to balance successfully life's many obligations and opportunities is proven. Lawyers in British Columbia are fortunate to have a person of his calibre to assume the Treasurer's mantle at such a time. He is a man of great accomplishments, commitment, integrity and judgment. We will all be well-served by Brian J. Wallace, Q.C. as our Treasurer in 1993.

L.L.L.&M.

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