



ON THE FRONT COVER

MARGUERITE (MEG) SHAW: PRESIDENT OF THE CBABC

By Barbara M. Young

The lawyers of Yale County are very pleased to have another CBABC branch president elected from their ranks. Meg Shaw assumed the role of branch president at the CBABC annual general meeting in August 2005.

Meg was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, and spent her childhood in Lethbridge and Brooks. The middle child of three, Meg came into the world with a relentless determination that has never waned. She rode her first horse shortly after she learned to walk and became the defender of the underdog early in her elementary school sandbox career. She was active in many sports, basketball being her favourite until an observant high school coach noted her vertical challenge and redirected her energies to track and field.

Law is Meg's second career. She first became a registered nurse in 1974, working in the intensive care nursery, the operating room, public health and homecare. She returned to school in 1981 and obtained a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Victoria in 1983.

Meg and Mike Shaw were married in 1986. Mike is well known to CBABC members as a consistent, visible support to Meg in all of her professional and volunteer endeavours. Mike teaches an alternative-education program for high school

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children and young adults. In addition to being a loyal escort to CBABC functions, Mike is famous for providing cutting-edge technology for Meg's practice. No Kelowna family lawyer will ever forget the wristwatch that contained her calendar.

Meg has three amazing children. Riley is at York University completing her Ph.D. in sociology. Galen is currently working in administration at the Royal Albert Hall in London, and recently spent two years in Japan teaching English. Last but not least, her German shepherd Bailey has four certificates from obedience school, including a K-9 good citizen certificate.

Meg articulated at McAfee Harder and stayed on as a lawyer and now a partner in the firm—as it is now known—Hattori and Shaw. Her preferred areas of practice are family law, child advocacy and wills and estates. She worked as coroner's counsel between 1993 and 2001, conducting several extensive inquest hearings for the B.C. Coroner's Service. She was one of the first lawyer mediators to be appointed to the B.C. Child Protection Mediation Roster, and she has acted as a child advocate under the *Child Family and Community Services Act*.

Meg has chaired many CBABC sections and committees, including the Okanagan family and ADR subsections, the social services task force, government relations committee, sections standing committee and governance committee. She was an executive committee member at large for two years before successfully running for election as secretary-treasurer and then vice-president. During this time, she has also been active in the community, including serving on the board of directors of the Registered Nurses Association, the board of the Kelowna Westbank YM-YWCA and the board of the Institutional Research Review Committee for the Kelowna General Hospital.

Meg and Mike love to travel and so far have been to France, England, Poland, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Dubai, many places in North America, Hawaii and Mexico.

The dogged determination referred to earlier shows up in everything Meg does. She shows compassion for her clients and a remarkable energy in advocating for them. She is thorough, well-informed and a worthy adversary in court. She is also able and willing to separate herself from the client's battle and enjoy a cup of victory or defeat tea with grace and good humour. If she were to change anything in the practice today, it would be to increase the professionalism and collegiality in the bar which she sees eroding.

The position of president, to Meg, is just the next step in her volunteer career at the CBABC. She is embarrassed by her colleagues making a fuss over this achievement. It certainly isn't going to her head. She will also sit as president of the Kelowna Bar Association this year and of course will practise full time when she can!

Through her involvement with the CBABC, Meg has been given many challenging and inspiring opportunities. She has met many lawyers whom she now calls friends from across the country, and she has a true sense of pride in the profession she is now leading in B.C. for the coming year.

Meg has shown that she is not afraid of hard work or to make tough decisions. I predict that under Meg's direction, the budget will be lean and the expectations of service will be high. Outlying regions will be given opportunities to actively participate. Brace yourself for an exciting ride, B.C.!