

Brian carried on in an unofficial capacity with Legacy Tax & Trust Lawyers (once DS&B was dissolved) until the onset of senile dementia prevented him from coming to the office on his own. He passed away peacefully in December 2014.

Robert Carrothers and Harry Bell-Irving, Q.C.



## Harvey Bowering

Harvey Bowering was born in Vancouver, noisily, on August 21, 1928, and died there peacefully on December 22, 2014. He practised law for 45 of those 86 years, all at the firm now known as Bull Housser LLP, but called, when he joined it, Bull, Housser, Tupper, Ray, Carroll, Guy & Merritt, Barristers & Solicitors. He cut his legal teeth practising among the

"giants of the bar", as he liked to call them, and as head of the firm's insurance litigation department he trained an impressive array of legal talent.

Born of solid Newfoundland stock, Harvey attended King George High School in Vancouver's West End before studying economics and history at the University of British Columbia. He then turned to law at UBC, starting his studies in army huts and graduating in 1952. He financed his education working for a burglar alarm company until he commenced his articles with the admiralty firm then known as McMaster, Boyle & Parks, fittingly located in the Marine Building.

Upon his call in May 1953, Harvey secured a job with Bull Housser, junioring Alfred Bull. From Harvey's oft-expressed perspective, there were three giants who practised as counsel in Vancouver in the late 1940s and early '50s: Senator Farris, K.C., Alfred Bull, K.C., and Neil Hossie, K.C. (all duly evolving into Q.C.s). Their ranks later grew with the addition of luminaries such as C.K. Guild, Q.C., Douglas McK. Brown, Q.C., and Bae Wallace, Q.C., but in the "early days", he maintained, there were but three counsel of such stature. And he was attached to one of them.



His work with Alfred Bull, who was affectionately (I trust) known as "Bully", exposed Harvey to a wide range of litigation experience and the odd acerbic comment from the Court of Appeal ("Your argument, Mr. Bull, sounds like a little Bull and a lot of Bowering"). Among their more notorious cases in the late 1950s were the lengthy criminal and civil proceedings arising out of the tribulations of Robert Summers, the minister of lands and forests accused and convicted of accepting bribes. Harvey assisted Alfred Bull in representing Summers on the civil side, while on the criminal side they defended Charlie Schultz, a forestry engineer who was charged along with the minister. Angelo Branca, Q.C., defended Summers on the criminal charge, while other counsel involved included Jack Nicholson, Q.C., Walter Owen, Q.C., and Ted Hinkson, Q.C. Branca, Nicholson, Owen and Hinkson all subsequently became "Honourables", though for different reasons (two vice-regal and two judicial).

Harvey's life changed dramatically when, on December 31, 1959, Bully died. Left on his own, Harvey started down the road of building a practice in insurance litigation—literally—piloting his behemoth Cadillac around the province with its vast trunk filled with files to settle. He proved to be a gifted negotiator and, ahead of his time, a successful marketer. Ultimately, Harvey developed a large and thriving department from which a number of talented and distinguished counsel graduated, including Daniel Webster, Q.C., the Honourable Mary Ellen Boyd, John Dives, Q.C., Robin Harper, Catherine Woods, Q.C., Simon Margolis, Q.C., Jane Milton, Q.C., and Penny Washington. I, too, was a graduate of that department and can personally testify to Harvey's remarkably supportive mentoring and his readiness to forgive egregious errors! Among other things, he taught us all how to write an opinion that would prove to be prophetically correct no matter what the outcome of the case.

Harvey was particularly prone to spoonerisms. A favourite was his dire and effective warning that a particular issue was a "political hot tomato".<sup>2</sup> He presided over department meetings weekly at 8 a.m., but the more important discussions occurred daily at around 10:30 a.m. At that time, Harvey would hang up the telephone with which he harangued opposing counsel and down tools for "morning coffee", accompanied by one of his then-beloved cigars. Now the real talk could begin.

From 1974 to 1978, Harvey served as Bull Housser's managing partner, for which he was rewarded with the gift of a full-size pool table. This led to one of several expansions to his house on Stevens Drive in the British Properties, which more than tripled in size over the many decades he lived there with his family. The house remained smoke-free, the cigars being for office use only.

Harvey married Eva Nicholson on August 12, 1960. Eva had a successful career as a skilled operating-room nurse, which doubtlessly influenced their two high-achieving children, John and Deborah. John is now the director of cardiac anesthesia at St. Paul's Hospital, while Deborah, who followed her mother into nursing, is currently teaching emergency nursing at Vancouver General Hospital on secondment from St. Paul's. Both children excelled at many sports, but particularly tennis. John reports, however, that after he beat his father at age 10, they never played tennis together again. They did, however, play some 10,000 games of pool.

Besides his family and his pool table, Harvey's passions included boating, fishing and football. He was a B.C. Lions season ticket holder from the team's inception until he could no longer attend games. But until his retirement, his chief passion was his work—often a source of considerable stress. For this reason, he resolved that, upon his retirement, he was going to devote himself to relaxing. And he did.

Harvey's legacy is significant, manifest in the marriage he helped sustain, the children he helped raise, the firm he helped grow and the lawyers (and judges) he helped train. Gone to a well-deserved rest, he will be much missed and fondly remembered.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Christopher Grauer

#### ENDNOTES

1. Not strictly a spoonerism in our book, but funny nonetheless—Ed



#### BLUSTER

