

# New President

James D. Vilvang

Climaxing several years of participation in Canadian Bar activities, James Dimitri Vilvang becomes President of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association at the next annual meeting in August at Montreal.

Jim, well known in athletic circles in British Columbia, was born in Vancouver in 1950 but grew up in New Westminster and attended New Westminster High School.

He took his L.L.B. degree in 1973 at the University of British Columbia where he was a centre and captain of the Thunderbird Football team.

He still wrestles for the fun of it after a professional wrestling career and keeps fit weight training, playing tennis and polo.

The writer can remember when Jim was a young lawyer with Sutton Braidwood and wrestled as a pro at the P.N.E. Gardens. Switching on the t.v. one Saturday afternoon I caught Jim wrestling a 300 lb., bearded opponent who proceeded to give him what looked like a severe mauling. When asked on Monday morning why he didn't look banged up he replied, "oh, that match was taped 3 months ago."

So much for professional wrestling, now a thing of the past, as Jim has pursued a career as a lawyer specializing in litigation, particularly personal injury, matrimonial and criminal matters, in which areas he has achieved a solid reputation.

He articulated with Rankin and Company and joined Sutton Braidwood in 1974 which firm later amalgamated with Richards, Underhill, Fraser, Skillings and Buell Ellis to form the present Richards Buell Sutton of which he is a partner.

He was first elected to the Council of the Canadian Bar Association in 1982, was a Member at Large of the Executive Committee of the B.C. Branch in 1985, Secretary Treasurer in 1986-87 and Vice President in 1987-88. He was Chairman of the Mid-Winter Meeting of the B.C. Branch in 1986 and 1987.

Jim was on the National Executive of the Canadian Bar Association in 1986-87 and is currently chairman of the National Committee on Alternate Dispute Resolution.

He is married to the former Margot Longley and has a 3½ year old son, Zachary.

Jim's experience as a barrister and the varied positions he has held in the ranks of the Canadian Bar on the way to his new position have prepared him for a successful term as our President.

— O. J. Hall

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