

On the Front Cover Terry La Liberte

by Wendy Baker, Q.C.

T.E. (known to everyone as Terry) La Liberte is the incoming President of the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. A long time C.B.A. "groupie", Terry practises predominantly criminal and some civil litigation with his law firm, La Liberte Rich. Terry began life in Ste. Catherines, Ontario. He thought better of this at a relatively early age, however, and relocated with his family to New Westminster where his father was a barber. Prior to and during university he had some interesting jobs including working as a log scaler and operating radar equipment for the Coast Guard. He attended the University of British Columbia obtaining a degree in Arts with the assistance of a favorite professor, Roy Daniells, father of lawyer Susan Daniells. Terry graduated in 1974 from the U.B.C. Faculty of Law, followed by a call to the British Columbia Bar in 1975.

Friends and close associates of Terry's assume that he has an identical twin somewhere who is actually carrying on his law practice because it is doubtful with his C.B.A. and other professional/charitable activities that he has time either to be in his office or in Court. An honorary lecturer at the U.B.C. Faculty of Law from 1980 to 1984, Terry has been an adjunct professor since 1984. He also squeezes in the occasional P.L.T.C. lecture. He has held numerous Canadian Bar Association offices, including Chairman of the Criminal Justice Section, member of the C.B.A. National Committee for the Reform of the Criminal Code and membership on the Law Society's Committee to respond to the report of the Hughes Commission on Access to Justice. Terry has also been an active member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Society since 1984. A strong advocate of appropriate access to legal services for all British Columbians, Terry continues to work on behalf of the public and his colleagues for adequate provision of government funded legal aid services. Terry has also served as Vice-President of the Native Court Workers and Counselling Board of Directors for several years. Terry and his wife Christie, a sometime actress who also is self-employed as a desktop publisher, are raising a combined family of four children, son Marc, and daughters, Kareena, Monika and Zoe, and two dogs in their False Creek neighbourhood. Terry is known as a free thinker who is prepared to break with tradition and try out new ideas. He is a good mimic with a notable sense of humour. Reliable sources say that one of his best roles is his "lounge lizard" imitation in which he croons the song "Feelings" into his tie. In fact he is a not untalented guitar player with a good voice.


Terry has little leisure time but likes boating or just driving around exploring and spending time with his children. He enjoys an occasional ski trip. He has recently indulged a long time passion for building and assembling model trains.

He and his two dogs have also recently taken up hunting but I hasten to add that reliable sources say he is unlikely, based on performance to date, to pose any threat to our wildlife stocks in British Columbia.

Terry travels to Bella Coola and Bella Bella every six weeks where he is the Ad Hoc

Federal Crown Counsel. An elaborate hoax perpetrated on Terry involving a Court recording of a faked trial in Bella Coola before his Honour Judge Cunliffe Barnett resulted in Terry becoming a Charter member of S.T.A.B. (Society to Annihilate Barnett).

During his year as C.B.A. Branch President Terry is expected to introduce some innovations while continuing his personal tradition of service to the Bar. Congratulations and good luck Terry!



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