



## ON THE FRONT COVER

MIRIAM KRESIVO

*By Lisa Vogt and Lisa Ridgedale*

Miriam Kresivo was the secretary treasurer of the Vancouver Bar Association for almost 14 years; this must, by any measure, be a record. She credits her lengthy term to the other very able members of the executive and the fact that she was able to choose post-meeting restaurants that measured up to the refined palates of the executive and to keep the business portion of the VBA annual general meetings to less than five minutes. The best part of the position for Miriam was meeting all the wonderful people on the executive. She says that is what kept her in the position for so many years.

Miriam arrived at law in a circuitous manner, starting off in Montreal studying art, taking a detour through architecture and finally arriving at the UBC Faculty of Law. She clerked for the County Court (for those of you old enough to remember that institution), where she developed a keen interest in litigation. She went on to article at Shrum Liddle, now McCarthy Tétrault, and then did a stint at insurance and commercial litigation at Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang, which she enjoyed immensely. Miriam loved litigation and has very fond memories of all her fellow Alexander Holburnites. She still attends the occasional informal "reunion". From there she moved to Chevron Canada Ltd., where she served as in-house counsel for the majority of her career, save for a brief hiatus, during which she did pension work at William M. Mercer Ltd. Miriam enjoyed the pension work and the people at Mercer, but chose to go back to Chevron for the variety of the work.

The practice at Chevron worked for Miriam, and she became general counsel, the position she holds today. At Chevron, on any given day, Miriam will deal with a labour issue, a commercial contract, an environ-

mental issue or litigation, or sit in a management meeting reviewing the finances of the company. She is as at home working on the strategic plan as she is providing strategic and legal advice during union negotiations. She also serves on the Chevron Pension Committee, where she supervises the investment of pension funds. Luckily for both Chevron and Miriam, she loves this variety and challenge.

Miriam has always sought out new challenges and the opportunity to participate in the community. In addition to her VBA responsibilities, she served on the CBA Corporate Counsel Subsection and Pension Subsection executives, rising to chair of the former and vice-chair of the latter. Outside law, Miriam is currently a director on the board of the B.C. Pavilion Corporation, which operates B.C. Place and the Convention Centre. She also served for many years on the local board of the downtown YMCA, although she states she had none of the obvious credentials.

Although Miriam admits to having limited athletic ability, she is a keen participant in sports. She runs regularly: she says, to keep her sanity as well as her waistline. She has taken up tennis with a vengeance and is committed to getting a serve. She is also a member of an all-female dragon boat team named the "Saggin Dragons". Anyone who knows Miriam will be aware of all this, since her car is littered with paddles, lifejackets, tennis rackets and tennis balls. Miriam plays chess every week at her "chess club", which is a small group of friends committed to making sense of the "Sicilian Defence". She also loves good food and good wine and entertaining friends. She and her husband, Dale, are always ready to host a dinner, and she is famous for her list of menus that require only 30 minutes to prepare.

Miriam is an incisive and thoughtful advocate, an experienced counsel and a firm and fast friend. Her legal career thus far has been a diverse and rewarding one. Above all, during her long tenure on the VBA and while developing her legal career, Miriam has formed a large community of friends. Whatever Miriam has chosen to do, whether at the law courts or on the courts of the Jericho Tennis Club, she has always done well. (Indeed, she has done exceptionally well in all legal matters, but she would dispute the athletic triumphs!) More importantly, Miriam executes everything with enthusiasm, commitment and uncommon intelligence. She does the legal profession proud. Those who know her well are waiting for her next challenge.

