

ing for Alf since they had by this time been married for a few years. Partnership at Pushor & Co. followed shortly thereafter, and she remained with the firm until her recent appointment.

Judge Jane practised family law almost exclusively. She was a highly effective mediator and was regarded as a leading family lawyer. All who practised with or against her will miss the candour, humour, and common sense that she liberally employed.

Her skills as a producer and social convener will hopefully be put to use by the Provincial Court. Her production of *Swine Lake* by the UBC Law School Rugby Team and *Swine Lake II* by her former partners and associates will not be quickly forgotten. She performed a leading role in *Twelve Angry Jurors*, presented by the Kelowna Bar Association and a local theatre group to sold-out audiences.

She has served the public and the profession by participating on several boards and committees. She was a president of the Kelowna Bar Association and continues to be a governor of the Law Foundation. She has been a contributing author and editor to the *CE Family Law Agreements Manual* and *Annual Review of (Family) Law*. She was a contributing author to the Canadian Bar Association Family Law Committee report to the Justice Reform Commission. Jane has also been active in supporting several local charities.

The greatest disappointment of her legal career has been Gerald Lecovin's persistent and, in her mind, unreasonable rejection of her applications to join SMALL (the Society of Midgets and Little Lawyers). Mr. Lecovin went so far as to refer to her in one rejection letter as being "positively gargantuan". In desperation she founded the rather short-lived SMALLER (Society of Midgets and Little Lawyers of Excellent Reputation).

Jane is the proud mother of two delightful daughters, the eldest of whom has taken to threatening her kindergarten class with her mother's judicial powers. In her free time Jane loves nothing better than to spend time with her family. She also enjoys puttering around her house and garden, reading and skiing.

Judge Jane has taken to judging like a fish to water. She is excited about her work and is undoubtedly a valuable addition to the Provincial Court Bench. If she were writing this, Jane would say that she will not forget what it was like to be a lawyer.



The Honourable Madam Justice Risa E. Levine

To say that British Columbia's most recently appointed Supreme Court Justice has had a full and successful career is certainly an understatement; and she has many years to go. Madam Justice Levine was born in Saskatoon (Risa Gropper, as she was then known), the third of four children, two of whom are now members of the British Columbia Bar: Mitchell Gropper, Q.C. of McCarthy Tétrault and Miriam Gropper of McTaggart, Ellis.

After graduating from high school, Risa attended the University of Saskatchewan for two years. Then, on a summer visit to brother Mitchell in Vancouver, she met her husband, Bill, and shortly after their marriage moved to Toronto where she completed her undergraduate degree (B.A. Honours Sociology) at the University of Toronto. While completing her M.A. in sociology at the same university she gave birth to her first daughter, Sarah. She soon moved back to Vancouver, where Anna was born.

When Risa's daughters were three and four, she enrolled in law school, where she distinguished herself, both for her *haute couture* (her husband had a good day job!) and her academic excellence. Risa was the associate editor of the *Law Review* and was awarded the Law Society Gold Medal for the highest scholastic standing in three years of law school. Risa articulated at Lawson, Lundell, Lawson & McIntosh and shortly after completing her articles, she joined Thorsteinssons, a firm that restricts its practice to taxation matters, where she practised for 17 years. While tax practice is viewed by many as restricted, Risa's range of practice within this field was broad and she practised as both a solicitor and a barrister.

Throughout her years of practice, Risa has been actively involved in professional activities. This list is long: an adjunct professor at the UBC Faculty of Law teaching corporate taxation for the last six years; a member of the Joint Committee on Taxation of the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants; a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee of the Faculty of Law; a member of the four-person national Tax Advisory Committee on proposed changes to federal-provincial tax collection agreements; a presenter at numerous conferences and seminars for organizations such as the Continuing Legal Education Society and the Canadian Tax Foundation; and a very prolific writer on tax topics.

Her community involvement has also been very extensive. Risa was a Public Governor of the Vancouver Stock Exchange for a five-year term; a member of the board of directors and the executive committee of the Vancouver Foundation; a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver; a member of the board of directors of the Vancouver Talmud Torah School; a member of the Organizing Committee of the National Retreat for Women; chair of the successful fund-raising campaign to endow a chair in feminist legal studies at the Faculty of Law; the list goes on. All of these activities were undertaken while she carried on a full-time professional practice and raised two daughters, of whom both Bill and Risa are justly proud.

Just so you don't think that Risa's life is all work and no play, it should be mentioned that the Levine family are very active skiers and members of the Whistler community and that Bill and Risa travel extensively.

As a practitioner in what many consider a rather arcane area of the law, Risa is known for her quick mind, her well-developed analytical and debating skills (counsel beware!) and her very objective and thoughtful approach to all issues. These skills, particularly the latter, will stand her in good stead in her new career.

Those who know Risa will tell you that both her sense of family and the Jewish tradition are major forces in her life and account, I suspect, for her willingness to take on responsibilities within her profession and the community. These forces also explain her willingness to take on the responsibilities of a Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

Those who practised with Madam Justice Levine will miss her. She will be a welcome addition to the Bench.

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