



Joseph Markson inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and other legal moves and grooves for May 1

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Joseph Markson of Markson Law Professional Corporation and criminal counsel to Morris Kepes Winters has been inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers

Joseph Markson inducted into IATL



Joseph Markson of Markson Law Professional Corporation and criminal counsel to Morris Kepes

JULIUS MELNITZER

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Winters has been inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

The Academy is a group of elite trial lawyers, including prosecutors and defense lawyers in criminal cases, as well as plaintiffs' and defense counsel in civil litigation. While most of the Fellows are American, the Academy includes lawyers from 30 countries.

Former Heenan Blaikie managing partner Norm Bacal speaks in Toronto

Legal Post editor Drew Hasselback will be interviewing Norm Bacal on Wednesday evening at an event held by the Toronto Lawyers Association.

Bacal has penned a book, *Breakdown*, that describes the collapse of the national business firm.

Trevor Scott joins Osler

Corporate lawyer Trevor Scott, formerly with Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy, has joined Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt's corporate practice group in Vancouver as a partner.

Scott advises senior public and private companies, institutions, investment dealers, boards of directors and special committees on mergers & acquisitions, equity and debt financings, restructurings, corporate governance, shareholder activism, and securities regulation.

Gowling welcomes Ian Mitchell

Corporate finance and securities lawyer Ian Mitchell, formerly with WeirFoulds LLP, has joined Gowling WLG as a partner in Toronto.

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Working with publicly traded and private companies, Mitchell advises on all aspects of securities law, including public offerings and private placements of equity and debt securities, take-over and issuer bids, proxy battles and shareholder disputes, M&A, stock exchange listings and other securities regulatory matters.

Mitchell, who holds a certificate in mining law from Osgoode Hall, advises mining companies in Canada and around the world at all stages of development. His practice also encompasses work in the alternative energy, professional services, tech and health care fields, with clients that include issuers, dealers, advisers, underwriters, targets, special committees, and independent directors.

Fasken grows Quebec City office

M&A lawyer Carl Tremblay and litigator Kateri-Anne Grenier, both previously with Norton Rose Fulbright Canada, have joined Fasken Martineau Dumoulin's Quebec City office as partners.

Tremblay's practice embraces private placements and public offerings on behalf of established companies and start-ups in the technology sector. He also acts for investors on private placements, has participated in creating spinoffs on behalf of several research centres in the Québec City area, and advises company boards on governance and integrity matters.

Grenier practices commercial litigation, focusing on construction and professional liability. She also appears before the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec and advises on issues related to access to information, protection of personal information, cybersecurity, consumer law, and product safety and marketing.

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YCAP elects new leaders

The Young Canadian Arbitration Practitioners has elected John Siwec of Perley-Robertson, Hill & McDougall as its new president for a two-year term, succeeding Christina Birks of Borden Ladner Gervais.

Also elected to the executive committee were Alexandra Mitretodis of Fasken Martineau Dumoulin as vice-president of technology; Sarah McEachern, also of Borden Ladner, as vice-president of education and events; and Joanne Luu from Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer as treasurer. Joseph Chedrawe of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer continues as secretary.

As well, YCAP elected several new directors: Michelle Chai from Stewart McKelvey; Frédéric Côté from BCF LLP, Martin Doe from the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague; Christina Doria from Baker McKenzie; Carlos Sayao from Davies Ward Phillips Vineberg; and Vanessa Voakes from Stikeman Elliott.

CBIA updates lawyers' insurance branding

The Canadian Bar Insurance Association, a non-profit organization, has created Lawyers Financial, an updated brand for insurance and investment products created specifically for the needs of lawyers and law firm staff.

“Outside of major national law firms, there are thousands of lawyers across the country who don’t have access to group insurance coverage for life insurance, critical illness, and disability insurance, as well as financial products such as group RRSPs and pension plans,” says Henry Kugler, President and CEO of CBIA. “Our target markets are sole practitioners and lawyers from small to mid-size firms because they are the least likely to have access to sufficient employee group benefit plans.”

Membership in the Canadian Bar Association is not required to obtain the insurance, although there are

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benefits for members.

McCarthy partners with Exigent on cost-saving document creation tool

McCarthy Tétrault and Exigent have launched an automated document creation tool, DocBuilder, that Exigent claims will save 75 percent on document drafting costs.

“Many agreements used today are template-based, requiring little revision or negotiation,” said David Holme, Exigent’s CEO. “Each organization may have its own template, written on their own paper, but largely they follow a standard format with a few variations. In other words, ideal for automation.”

By way of example, Holmes says 80 per cent of non-disclosure agreements follow a standard format with minimal alterations.

“To think that law firms can charge up to \$1,400 for an NDA that could be produced in-house by non-lawyers for \$225 shows just how much room there is for efficiencies in this space,” he said. “And to do so in the context of contract management best practice means in-house legal teams can really make huge savings and get clever about their contracts.”

DocBuilder works as a standalone tool or can be fully integrated with Exigent’s contract management software, Chameleon.

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