

Names in the News

NEWS

MOVES

■ In Calgary, Eugene Chen has joined *Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP* as a partner, specializing in corporate finance, securities and public mergers and acquisitions, private equity and venture capital. Chen was previously with *Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP* (FMC).

■ FMC recently added three partners to its ranks. Marc Lemieux joins FMC as a partner and the head of its financial services group in Montreal. Previously he was vice-president, legal affairs and corporate secretary for Gaz Métro, a major Quebec energy corporation. Sandra Walker has joined the firm's Toronto office as partner in its national competition/anti-trust group. In addition to her legal practice, Walker was recently chair of the foreign investment review committee of the Canadian Bar Association's national competition law section. Vivek Bakshi also joined the firm's Toronto office as a partner in its national energy and corporate/commercial groups. Bakshi worked as a solicitor at a prominent global law firm in London and Tokyo. He immigrated to Canada in 2008 and was hired as an associate at *Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP*.

LAW FIRM NEWS

■ Greg Palm has left small downtown Vancouver firm *Hungerford Tomy Lawrenson and Nichols* to form his own firm -- *Palm & Company Legal Counsel*. The new boutique litigation firm is based in Surrey, B.C. Palm said in an e-mail interview he struck out on his own form several reasons, including the ability to work closer to home and put his business degree and entrepreneurial spirit to use. Palm specializes in civil and commercial litigation, business disputes, real estate litigation, creditor recovery matters and wrongful dismissals and other employment litigation. Palm is the current contributor to the "Remuneration" chapter in the *LexisNexis Canada* (which also publishes *The Lawyers Weekly*) text *Canadian Legal Practice*.

Young lawyer gives back

ELAINE WILTSHIRE

As an associate with *Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP* in Montreal, Tricia Kuhl's day-to-day focus is on big deals involving big business. But this young, ambitious business lawyer is more than mergers and acquisitions — she understands first-hand the importance of giving back to her community.

Shortly after joining *Blakes* in 2004, Kuhl began her work with *The Portage Program for Drug Dependencies Inc.*, a national non-profit organization based out of Montreal dedicated to the social rehabilitation of substance abusers. She provides the organization with a core set of legal services, including legal assistance with corporate commercial and intellectual property matters.

She also sits on the board of directors.

"I've visited many of the treatment centres and met with many of the residents," Kuhl said. "You have a direct connection with the issues trying to be resolved from a legal perspective. You see the direct benefit you're giving to the client, which is not always the case in corporate commercial or intellectual property deals."

As the recipient of the Canadian Bar Association's (CBA) 2009 Young Lawyers Pro Bono Award, Kuhl's commitment to the community has not gone unnoticed.

"It is a wonderful award and I feel very privileged to have received it," says Kuhl. "I believe that it further encourages my involvement in pro bono work."

She also hopes the award will show younger lawyers that giving to the community is a worthwhile endeavour and she is encouraged to know that the CBA, as well as her own firm, supports and believes in this type of work.

Each year the CBA presents the award in recognition of outstanding pro bono legal work by a lawyer under 40 years old or who has been practising for less than 10 years.



LAWYER OF THE WEEK

Tricia Kuhl

"Tricia personifies what can be done in terms of pro bono," said Sarah Klinger, chair of *Young Lawyers-CBA*, in a press release announcing the winner. "She is part of the solution, someone who demonstrates by example through her teaching, mentoring and tutoring. The jury was unanimous in selecting Tricia as [2009's] award winner."

The award also recognizes the contribution she's made to the firm, including recruitment activities and women's initiative issues at *Blakes*. She is also a guest lecturer at *McGill University Faculty of Law*.

Although Kuhl has been with *Blakes* for nearly six years, she spent the beginning part of her law career bouncing back and

forth between Alberta and Quebec — even spending some time across the ocean.

After completing her undergraduate work at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, she headed to *McGill University* in Quebec to obtain her common and civil law degree. She was called to the Alberta Bar in 1999 and the Quebec Bar in 2000.

Got news?

Contributions to Names in the News can be e-mailed to names@lexisnexis.ca

After spending two years at a national law firm, her career took a detour through Paris, where she worked in-house for a biotechnology company, and then a software development company.

In 2004, she was homeward bound when she accepted her current position at *Blakes*, where she has been carving out her practice ever since.

Name:

Tricia Kuhl

Law school:

McGill University

Called to the Bar:

1999 (Alberta), 2000 (Quebec)

Career highlights:

2000 Begins articling with a national law firm in Montreal

2002 Starts in-house gig for a Paris biotechnology company

2004 Hired as an associate at *Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP*

2009 Winner Canadian Bar Association's 2009 Young Lawyers Pro Bono Award

As an associate with the business group, she specializes in the areas of life sciences and information technology — two areas that have interested her since the beginning of her career.

"Sometimes these areas look like they are far apart in the big picture, but in reality they have a lot of commonalities," says Kuhl. "I found that if you have a solid knowledge of IP, you really can work in both fields simultaneously."

The common thread, she points out, is the intellectual property work. "I deal with the protection, commercialization, transfer of intellectual property and transactions that deal primarily with intellectual property as a core asset."

She also said that although she does not have a scientific or engineering background, which is an asset when working in these fields, she does not feel that has held her back at all in her practice, stating she continues to "try and learn as best as I can."

Her positive attitude and desire to help other has no doubt led to her success as a young lawyer and she says she hopes she can be a role model for other young lawyers looking to invest their time in pro bono work. ■

THE LAWYERS WEEKLY®

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 year (48 issues): \$265 + GST
2 years (96 issues): \$449 + GST
U.S. and international subscriptions: \$350/year
Law student rate: \$59.95 + GST
Individual copies: \$9.50 + GST

GST/HST/QST No.: R121051767

Postal Information: Please forward all postal returns to: Circulation Controller, *The Lawyers Weekly*, 123 Commerce Valley Drive East, Suite 700, Markham, ON L3T 7W8. Return postage guaranteed. ISSN 0830-0151. Publications Mail Sales Agreement Number: 40065517.

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