

Names in the News

NEWS

MOVES

■ *Langlois Kronström Desjardins LLP* continues to grow with the addition of **Marie-Julie Gauthier** and **Carolyn McCarthy** to its civil and commercial litigation team in the firm's Montréal office. Gauthier practices in the area of civil litigation with an emphasis on insurance law, professional liability and disciplinary law. McCarthy represents businesses and financial institutions, primarily in the areas of civil and commercial litigation, bankruptcy, class actions, competition law and civil liability.

APPOINTMENTS

■ *Lavery LLP's Olga Farman* has been appointed to the board of directors of the Orchestre symphonique de Quebec (OSQ). The OSQ is a major cultural organization serving the Quebec City metropolitan area. Farman is a member of Lavery's business law group and specializes in health and life science law.

AWARDS

■ The 2012 recipient of the Toronto Lawyer's Association Award of Distinction is **Justice Ian Binnie**. The award is given to Toronto lawyers or judges who exhibit excellence in their field, and in recognition of the recipient's integrity and contribution to the legal profession. Binnie was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1998, replacing the late justice John Sopinka and is soon to retire.

■ The International Municipal Lawyers Association recently honoured **John Mascarin** of *Aird & Berlis LLP* with the President's Award for Most Outstanding Associate Member. The award recognizes his commitment to the pursuit of excellence in local government law, and Mascarin is the first ever Canadian recipient of the award. Mascarin is a certified specialist in municipal law: local government and land use planning and development. He is also an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and the faculty of environmental studies at York University.

Pre-teen dream job a reality

BY DONALEE MOULTON

Some people never figure what they really want to do for a living, Samantha Ip knew she would be a lawyer before she was a teen.

"I was 12 and in Grade 6. I was watching one of those court shows, and I thought, 'I can do this.' I was one of those people who liked convincing other people," said Ip, a partner with Clark Wilson LLP.

"I pushed myself to consider other options," she noted, "but I was crystal clear on this."

Indeed, the Hong Kong native, who moved to British Columbia when she was 10 and learned to speak English, put her convictions to the test. "I worked in law firms prior to law school. I delivered faxes, I did reception, I did photocopying. I worked as a paralegal for summer jobs."

Law school only reinforced her commitment to the profession. "I loved everything about it," said Ip. "There was no disappointment."

There was, however, a decision to be made. "In law school, you're supposed to keep an open mind," Ip noted. "I always felt I was leaning towards litigation. The first moot (court) sealed the deal."

It's been etched in stone ever since. "This job takes a lot out of you. Some days are more difficult, but I thoroughly enjoy what I do — helping people resolve their issues," said Ip, a member of Clark Wilson's construction and procurement, insurance, and higher learning groups.

"If it were up to me," she added, "I'd be in court every day."

Today Ip's practice focuses on two key areas: construction and insurance. "I didn't spring out of school thinking I wanted to be a construction lawyer," Ip noted. "Both my areas are quite specialized."

When Ip, who speaks French, Cantonese, and Mandarin as well as English, came to work at Clark Wilson, construction was one of several options available to her. The chair of the practice group at



Samantha Ip.

THE PROFILE

that time was heading into one largest pieces of litigation that involved a \$45 million construction project and included a one-year trial. "I started into this as a junior lawyer," IP noted, "but by the time it concluded, I was lead counsel."

"This case had the effect of establishing me as a construction lawyer," she added.

For Ip, who is editor for the B.C. Continuing Legal Education's *Annual Law Review for Construction*, the key to being successful in her field is simple: be an excellent lawyer. "My advice to anyone entering into construction law

would be the same," she said adding, "You need to be courageous. In every environment, you need to put yourself aside somewhat."

Since Ip began her first foray into construction law, the practice has changed significantly and continues to evolve. In the late '90s, she noted, the emphasis was on things that went wrong. As the economy boomed, however, deficiency and delay claims became almost a thing of the past. By the mid-2000s, there was a great demand for contract advice.

"Later our role again changed as the economy changed," said Ip. "The focus was on liens and unpaid

Name:
Samantha Ip

Law school:
University of British Columbia

Called to the Bar:
1995

Career highlights:

1994 Graduated with her law degree from UBC

2003 Became a partner at Clark Wilson LLP in Vancouver

2011 Co-authored the chapter on construction law for B.C. Continuing Legal Education's *20th Annual Review of Law & Practice*

work ... In the last year, there has been a real focus on risk management."

"I expect there is not going to be any quick turnaround," she added. "People are much more careful."

Being a lawyer consumes a lot of Ip's day. "I work a lot," she said simply. "I do it not because I'm Type A but because taking care of the client is what it is all about."

The University of British Columbia law graduate also finds time for herself, however. One of her favorite activities is hip-hop dancing. "It's tremendous exercise," said Ip.

She also enjoys sitting back and savouring a glass of wine, travelling, and cooking. As well, she volunteers.

"To succeed in this profession, you have to be a happy person," said Ip. "You have to have balance. You need to work hard, but you need to have real lives." ■

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