



Introduces the New Chair



Dana Schindelka, a partner with Davis LLP in Calgary, was recently appointed the new chair of ASSIST, an organization of Alberta lawyers helping lawyers.

Dana joined the ASSIST board in 2005, after many years of service as a director of the Saskatchewan program, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers. Dana also serves as director of the Canadian Bar Association Legal Profession Assistance Conference, the national platform for lawyer assistance programs across Canada.

Dana co-authored a report in 2007 identifying the need for peer support for Alberta lawyers. It is timely that he assumes his position as ASSIST reaches the important milestone of offering peer support to Alberta lawyers.

Peer support is a program designed to complement ASSIST's confidential professional counselling services and as a stand-alone service, in either case offering individuals experiencing personal or professional struggles with support and guidance.

Volunteer and community work is a significant part of Dana's life. He received the Canadian Bar Association Alberta Branch Volunteer Recognition Award in 2006.

Dana's civil litigation practice has taken him to the Supreme Court of Canada and all levels of court in Alberta and Saskatchewan. He was identi-

fied as a Lawyer to Watch in the 2008 *Lexpert Guide to the Leading U.S./Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada* and was profiled in *Alberta Venture* magazine as an emerging leader in the business community. Dana was named one of Canada's Top 40 lawyers under 40 and awarded *Lexpert's* Rising Stars award.

Dana is a frequent guest speaker and has published many articles, including a column for the Canadian Bar Association - Legal Profession Assistance Conference for SLAW (a cooperative Canadian Legal Weblog). Dana was recently interviewed by Janice Mucalov, LL.B. for her CBA Practicelink Article "Working with a Distressed Client: Lawyers as Gatekeepers for Psychological Issues."

Dana hails from Regina, Saskatchewan, earned his LLB from Dalhousie Law School and is a member of the Saskatchewan (1997) and Alberta bars (2003).

In my first year as the ASSIST Executive Director, I have enjoyed meeting and working alongside some remarkable individuals on the board, on our peer support program, our funding partners and donors, and our in-kind supporters. In particular, I would like to thank John Gulak and Alan Jochelson who served ASSIST as Co-Chairs from 2008-2010. John and Alan have governed the organization with wisdom and compassion and the Alberta bar is stronger for their service.

Please join me in thanking John and Alan for their leadership and congratulating Dana on his new role.



Assist offers professional, confidential help to lawyers and their immediate families. Assist is an independent, charitable society. For immediate access to professional help, call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta: 1-877-498-6898. To learn more about Assist, visit our website at www.albertalawyersassist.ca or contact our Executive Director toll free at 1-877-737-5508 / direct at 403-537-5508.