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Backgrounder

November 23, 2005

Victoria lawyers recognized

Shannon C. Buchan

Shannon was born on 24 June 1958 in Regina, Saskatchewan. She attended Athabasca Public School and Sheldon Williams High School and then went on to obtain a BA (Philosophy) from the University of Regina in 1987. She graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Western Ontario in 1992 and was called to the BC bar in 1994.

Shannon articulated in Victoria with Linge, Carr and Davies – now Carr Buchan and Company, where she was a partner from 2000 until recently, when she retired from practice.

Shannon began law school when her children (Adia, now 23 and Kai, now 22) were both school aged. She is a single parent. When she was no longer kept busy with the children's homework, sporting and other activities, she volunteered with the Provincial Family Court Committee. She advocated for the establishment of the family duty counsel program and was the first lawyer on the list.

Shannon's clients have always been vocal in expressing their gratitude for her strong advocacy, non-judgmental attitude, compassion, and caring. They repeatedly report that she took the extra steps needed to help them. Shannon had a special way with clients who faced challenges ranging from mental health and disabilities to literacy and poverty.

Shannon is not letting her extensive knowledge of the working of the courts go to waste. She currently volunteers with the Victoria Crystal Meth Society Court Watch, the Law Courts Education Society, and Separation and Divorce Resource Centre's Court Preparation Sessions.

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Peter Golden

Peter attended McGill Law School and graduated after a four-year National Program with a BCL and LLB in 1991. During this third year, he was Executive Director of the McGill Legal Aid Clinic.

Peter has been a sole practitioner, primarily in family and immigration/refugee law, in Victoria since 1993.

His law related activities include:

- supervising pro bono students,
- working with students at the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre,
- serving as a board member of Victoria Coalition for Survivors of Torture,
- acting as principal for Law Centre students, and
- participating in the Collaborative Family Law Group in Victoria, for which he was a founding member.

Peter has been a speaker locally on immigration and family law, and refugee and international human rights issues at Canadian Bar Association and Canadian Council for Refugees conferences.

He has also worked in Central America as a volunteer for human rights, including accompanying union leaders and human rights workers who were returning to the region after being forced into exile.

His international experience also includes assisting with election monitoring in El Salvador and Mexico.