

President's Message

CTLA and TLA: Neighbours, friends, partners, allies—our enduring spirit of Trust and Respect Thrives in 2019.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy spoke in the Canadian House of Commons, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada—my home town. Although I was not yet born, I adore that speech, which is considered a masterpiece, since it focused our respective countries' attention on the harmony between our two great nations. It was in this speech where Mr. Kennedy proclaimed:

"Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together, let no man put asunder."

And while this quote is beloved and oft-quoted, I wish today to focus on an equally powerful, albeit less quoted message delivered within that same speech.

Mr. Kennedy, with the perception and eloquence unique to the 35th president: stated that Canada and the United States:

"...do not seek the unanimity that comes to those who water down all issues to the lowest common denominator—or to those who conceal their differences behind fixed smiles—or to those who measure unity by standards of popularity and affection, instead of trust and respect. We are allies. This is a partnership, not an empire. We are bound to have differences and disappointments—and we are equally bound to bring them out into the open, to settle them where they can be settled, and to respect each other's views when they cannot be settled."

In my year as President, I promise that the Canadian Transport Lawyers Association (CTLA) will strive to live up to these highest ideals of trust and respect and those ideals will be shared amongst CTLA members, Transportation Lawyers Association (TLA) members, and the industry we serve with such dedication and excellence.

First, I would like our readers to consider that we at CTLA have gained unanimity through our few volunteers creating a culture of trust and respect, gained by working together to provide education and networking through publishing articles in the *TTL*, webinars, attending TLA events, and annually hosting a conference in a Canadian city.

The ratio of members for CTLA: TLA is 100:1,000 which approximately mirrors the difference in the sizes of the economies of our two countries. Like the TLA, we are a not-for-profit corporation, and we strive annually to break even or retain several thousand

dollars in our account for the next year. However, given our smaller revenues, we only have the assistance of a part-time conference planner who assists with administration and planning our annual conference; we do not have administrative support for most of our tasks. All of the work to annually educate and involve our members is performed by volunteers who are also running their law practices, and carving time away from personal and family lives to serve CTLA.



Heather C. Devine

I would like to highlight a few examples of our volunteers' dedication: our website is personally updated by **Pierre-Olivier Dumas**; by-law updates and corporate governance advice are provided tirelessly by **Louis Amato-Gauci** and **Jaclyne Reive**; membership drives are organized by **Kim Stoll**; and the rest of our tasks are performed by our Executive: under the steady, and good-humoured leadership of President **Israel Ludwig**, we have enjoyed a solid year and Israel organized our annual conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba (with the help of Program Committee members **Kim Stoll**, **Don Vogel**, and **Stéphane Lamarre**); I assisted with conference programming, membership, and finding new volunteers to expand the CTLA while I held the role of

Secretary and President Elect; **Jean-François Bilodeau** untangled our Quebec tax status and managed our monies as Treasurer; and **Carole McAfee Wallace** edited many articles of excellent Canadian content into the *TTL*, where they were published for the education of both CTLA and TLA members. Our directors, and our representatives, worked together to ensure our corporate governance remains sound.

Our volunteers and members, who sometimes compete amongst each other for work, tirelessly exhibit trust and respect amongst Canadian and U.S. members of CTLA, as CTLA serves its members in different provinces, territories and countries, with different laws and regulations, differing insurance regimes, and separate (but often interdependent) business enterprises. From the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, across the prairies and Rocky Mountain range of Western and Central Canada, we create a cohesive network of transportation lawyers who frankly exist to serve each other and our respective clients' needs. To each of you, on behalf of our members, I say: thank you.

Second, I would like to highlight the importance of international friendship and how the inclusion of U.S. friends into CTLA further enhances our culture of trust and respect by creating allies and partnerships within North America. In addition to the trust and respect exhibited by our members towards one another, I believe that the importance of our friendships across borders, even for members who practice domestically only, should be celebrated as

we recognize our loyal members who cross the Canada-U.S. border to attend our annual meeting in Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg, Quebec City, Kelowna and Toronto, to name a few places where our CTLA annual meetings have been held recently. Loyal CTLA members like **Martha Payne, Brian Del Gatto, Don Vogel, Jeff Simmons, Ken Hoffman, Fritz Damm, Mark Andrews, Eric Zalud, Stephanie Penninger**, and others—too many to list here—have faithfully attended CTLA's annual meeting either to speak, or simply network and expand the CTLA Canadian members' perspectives.

In recognition of the strength of the contributions of our U.S. members, who were recently awarded full standing to influence the future of CTLA by being accorded the right to vote, our annual meeting educational panels incorporate elements of business and insurance laws which are common to both countries, and through the experience and leadership of seasoned lawyers, we learn strategies, techniques and ethics which strengthen our

diverse practices and help our businesses grow. To each of our U.S. members, on behalf of CTLA, I say: thank you.

Finally, I want to thank the leaders of CTLA who preceded me. I started my ascension up the ladder as Editor to Past President **Myer Rabin**. Myer tirelessly worked for CTLA and attended his own annual meeting, organized and held just weeks before he passed away. We could not ask for more commitment and devotion than that provided by Myer.

As I assume Presidency in late September, I hope to bring the influence of our current President and past Presidents to our leadership. I hope to show my devotion to CTLA and TLA by working diligently as a volunteer to develop membership, expand our influence in the industry, and ensure that through trust and respect we continue our partnership.

CTLA and TLA. Allies. Partners. Friends.