

# 2024 SASKATCHEWAN LEGAL EXECUTIVE FORUM

May 10, 2024 | Time TBD

University of Saskatchewan College of Law  
15 Campus Dr, Saskatoon, SK



**The Saskatchewan Legal Executive Forum starts at 8:00 am with a light breakfast.**

**Program starts at 8:30 sharp!**

**8:30 AM**

**1. Welcome-** Dean Phillipson

**8:35 AM**

**2. Opening Panel: Reflections and Sharing Experiences**

**Moderator: Kenneth J. Fredeen, General Counsel (Emeritus), Deloitte LLP**

- Joanne Cox -Former General Counsel at Encana, Director
- Mark Guillet K.C., President SaskEnergy
- Doug Kosloski K.C., Vice President, Corporate Counsel and Regulatory Affairs, SaskTel

Panel members will discuss their careers and their observations and expectations on the role of General Counsel and their teams. Discussion will cover a broad range of topics including what advice can they pass on to the next generation, what techniques they employed to juggle busy careers, families, and their wellbeing, and what they know now that they wished they knew when they started their legal careers.

**9:20 AM**

### **3. Litigation, Dispute Resolution and Managing Risk**

**Moderator: Kenneth J. Fredeen, General Counsel (Emeritus), Deloitte**

- **David Stack K.C., General Counsel, University of Saskatchewan**
- **Michaela Keet, Professor College of Law**
- **Titli Datta, Partner, Miller Thomson LLP**
- **Caroline J. Smith, Partner, McKercher LLP**
- **Aleks Zivanovic, Vice President Legal (SGI Canada)**

A key element to the role of General Counsel and their teams is the effective management of risk and litigation. Resolving disputes, whether internal or external is what they do day in and day out. Done right and maybe no one will notice. Done poorly results in monetary and reputational damage. This panel will look at best practices in resolving private and public disputes, how to plan for and measure costs, and the important ways the law department can bring value to their clients. Critical for success is evaluating risk, having a multi-faceted resolution plan, and partnering with the right external lawyers.

**10:05 AM Networking Break**

**10:20 AM**

### **4. Expanding Role of the General Counsel: Walking the Balance Beam Between Law and Business and the Ethical Implications**

**Moderator: Alan Fern, General Counsel, Crown Investments Corporation**

- **Erin M.S Kleisinger K.C., Partner McDougall Gauley LLP and President of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada**
- **Bob Kirkpatrick K.C., Sr. Vice President, General Counsel Securities & Corporate Secretary, Nutrien**
- **Joanne Cox, Former General Counsel at Encana, Director**
- **Doug Hodson K.C., Partner MLT Aikins**

The General Counsel mandate continues to expand. In addition, General Counsel are expected to provide business advice as well as legal advice, as members of the leadership team, or at least integrate their legal advice into making the business better. General Counsel and their teams must be integrated into the business and be astute in how they provide legal advice, so that the business can be successful. But this expanded role also has risk. The panel will provide insight into the expanded role, the issues General Counsel and their teams should be aware of.

**10:50 AM**

**5. Ethics Tabletop Exercise**

Table discussion on an ethics scenario which includes an examination on some of the pitfalls from being both a legal and business advisor. The scenario is based on both hypothetical and real examples faced by General Counsel and their teams. Time will be given for report outs and reflection by the expert panel.

Report outs to, and discussion with, the panel.

**11:50 AM Lunch and networking break**

**12:30 PM**

**6. Operational Efficiencies and Integrating AI into Your Law Department.**

**Moderator: Kenneth J. Fredeen, General Counsel (Emeritus), Deloitte LLP**

- **Laura Klemmer, Director Corporate Legal Services, Farm Credit Canada**
- **Joseph Gill, Partner, McKercher LLP (moderator for table discussion)**
- **Joe Morando, Partner, Miller Thomson LLP**

This session will start with a 45-minute panel discussion which will look at operational best practices, and the application of AI in law departments and in law firms. This is about doing more with less, but also about understanding how these developments will change how we practice law. This panel will provide insights to General Counsel and their teams to think about what might make sense for them, and what they should expect from the law firms doing their work.

Joseph will then moderate a 30-minute table discussion where attendees will share insights and best practices, focussing on how and where technology and AI are being used, and will be used in the future, by corporate law departments and external legal professional service providers.

**1:45 PM**

**7. Water: Economic and Legal Implications for Saskatchewan**

**Moderator: Kenneth J. Fredeen, General Counsel (Emeritus), Deloitte**

- **Corinne Schuster-Wallace Executive Director, Global Institute for Water Security, U of S**
- **Bob Kennedy K.C., Counsel, McDougall Gauley LLP**
- **Ali'i Lafontaine, General Counsel Water Security Agency**

This Panel will start with a presentation by the Executive Director at the Global Institute for Water Security, to frame the discussion on water issues Internationally, nationally, provincially and locally and for the South Saskatchewan River water basin. The panel will then move into a

discussion on the implications for agriculture, business and communities in the province. What is predicted for how the province will provide safe and affordable water to communities, agriculture and businesses through conservation, law, policy and regulation (now and in the future). How will these developments impact the Saskatchewan economy, particularly in the resource and agriculture sectors? And how will this impact the advice you give to your clients or the skills you will need to be effective in your role?

### **2:30 PM Networking Break**

### **2:45 PM**

### **8. Legal Hotspots- Issues and Recent Legal Developments: What Might Be Keeping You Up at Night**

**Moderator: Loreley Chekay KC, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Risk Officer, Saskatchewan Government Insurance**

- Robert Affleck, Partner, McKercher LLP
- Susan Barber K.C., Partner McDougall Gauley LLP
- Ryan Hallman, Partner, MLT Aikins LLP
- Eric F W Johnson, Partner, Miller Thomson, LLP

Keeping on top of legal developments, trends and recent cases is a challenge for General Counsel and their teams. Four lawyers at the top of the Saskatchewan legal profession will provide their insights on a variety of topics, to help you give better legal advice and help you sleep better at night. What a way to close out the Forum!

### **3:30 PM**

### **9. Closing Remarks, Summary and Takeaways**