

George Cadman, QC: Our Newest Examiner

George Cadman's grandfather moved to Vancouver in 1911, then went off to fight in WWI as part of the CEF. [Canadian Expeditionary Force].

George spent his first few years in the Kootenays, then the family moved to Vancouver in 1956, so that his father could pursue post-graduate studies at UBC. George grew up in the same East Vancouver home as his father had.

Early in his working career, George had all those great jobs students get, from selling Fuller Brush to delivering furniture for Woodward's.

After undergrad studies at UBC, he attended Osgoode Hall in Toronto, where he had the good fortune to find Summer work that exposed him to research and writing. He assisted Brian Bucknall in writing *Casebook in Property Law and Real Estate*, which was used for a number of years at Osgoode. That process served George well when, from 1986 to 1990, he taught Real Estate Transactions as an Adjunct Professor with UBC Law School. Bob Reid, one of our other Examiners and George's long-time colleague, had convinced him that the best way to spend a sabbatical was to teach.

George looked to Law as both a career and a training ground for other ways to contribute to the community. He has always had an interest in politics and public affairs and the two interests

seemed logically connected to what the Law offered.

George has had the great fortune to have a number of mentors over many years. In the academic field, he attributes much of his desire to both learn and teach to his father, a classical scholar and teacher. George followed in his footsteps in the best of both worlds: academics and law.



In the law and in business, his mentors included two founding partners at Boughton—Les Peterson, QC, and the late Jim Boughton—and the Managing Partner for many years, the late Don Dunfee.

Much of what George learned about political life and the principle of staying connected to the needs of the community came from the late

broadcaster and MP Chuck Cook, for whom George ran several successful campaigns. George continues to have the highest regard for those who choose to serve in elected office, knowing the demands it makes on time, business or professional life, and family.

When asked whether he is a mentor himself, George says he maintains an open door: "Part of our professional responsibility is to develop, guide, and train the leadership of the future in our respective professions and the community."

Lawyers take an oath to uphold the interest of their fellow citizens with integrity and without prejudice. When asked to talk about the most challenging and satisfying aspects of his work, George says, "When a person functions in an adversarial environment, as all litigators do, there is nothing more satisfying than a good win, but the real challenge and the most satisfaction comes from being able to craft and implement solutions to client problems. As counsel, I try to guide the Court through the law to a place that it may not have been before. The law is constantly evolving. On the odd occasion, you get the chance to be part of that process."

George was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1990 at age 39 and chaired both the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC and the National Continuing Legal Education Committee of the CBA in the 1990s.

When the face of the City of Vancouver was undergoing great change, he was a Director and President of the Downtown Vancouver Business

Improvement Association, a process he found rewarding and informative. He continues to serve the DVBIA as counsel.

From March 2001 to April 2005, his experience leading a group of more than 5000 lawyers, as Chair of Meritas Law Firms—a worldwide affiliation of more than 165 law firms—gave him a special view of professional life, business, and the way lawyers serve others. “I will draw on that experience for management and professional expertise for many years to come,” he maintains.

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George assists in the BC Notaries’ training process, including what form their new educational programs should take. His commitment to serve on the Board of Examiners of the Notary Preparatory Course is a logical extension of what he feels is important to both the legal and the notarial professions—well educated, trained professionals who serve the public better.

At a technical level, the examiners set and mark the qualifying exams.

On a personal level, his involvement also helps to fulfil his professional development needs as both lawyer and teacher.

George continues to serve as Chancellor [chief legal officer] of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and as a Trustee of the Anglican Initiatives Fund.

He also loves sports—as a spectator mostly—and travel.

When asked what is most important to him in life, George says, “Family, good friends, and our profession. We can be the agents of change and are among those with the great privilege of making a difference in the future of this city, province, and country.” ▲