

Canadian Bar Association

Lawyer uses skills to build bridges

Rebecca Darnell takes on a new volunteer challenge.

by Roxanne Hooper

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On Saturday, Rebecca Darnell accepted a prestigious post on the provincial council of the Canadian Bar Association.

Two days later she bid adieu to Langley Community Services, stepping down as president of the organization exactly three years to the date after an arson fire destroyed the group's Langley City facilities.

Believing that renewal is essential in non-profit organizations, Darnell was instrumental in instituting a sunset clause for board members at LCS. Now completing her sixth and final year as a director, she said it's time for new blood to take her spot at the board table and help guide the organization into a new and exciting future.

That doesn't mean the founder of Darnell and Company Lawyers is suddenly expecting to have a lot of spare time.

In taking on this newest challenge



Rebecca Darnell

with CBABC, she still anticipates being very busy.

"One of the primary objectives that I am interested in is promoting the legal profession and building relationships within the community as a whole, so that we can all have a deeper understanding of the issues facing us," Darnell told the **Langley Advance**.

When called to the bar in 1995, Darnell was no stranger to the legal system. Before attending law school at UBC, she worked as a legal secretary and freelance paralegal.

"I believe that I have an obligation to my community, both professional and at large, to use my legal skills and knowledge to benefit all. This position will provide me a unique opportunity to build relationships and to promote and explain my profession. I am hopeful that my service will have a positive impact."

Her values were apparent in the role she played in rebuilding LCS after the fire.

But it was even more obvious when the long-time advocate for restorative justice helped facilitate a healing circle with the convicted arsonists responsible for the blaze.

Her commitment to community is also obvious by her involvement with the Rotary Club, her current duties as president of the Fraser Valley Bar Association, as well as her membership in both the West Coast Legal Action Defence Fund and the CBABC Women Lawyers Forum. She's also on the board of governors for Kwantlen University.