

ISSUE 8 · OCTOBER 2024



# THE TRU BUSINESS LAW SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to the TRU Business Law Society's first newsletter of 2024!

The TRU Business Law Society welcomes you back for the Fall Semester! We hope you had a great summer, and are ready to tackle the upcoming school year!

In this issue, our Alumni Spotlight focuses on previous BLS co-president Ian Jonson, recent graduate of the TRU Law Class of 2024.

Thank you for interacting with our instagram story, follow @trubuslawsociety if you missed it! Featured in the issue is advice regarding the in-firm interview week. We also have exciting events coming up, including the BC Alumni Event!

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## A Message From Our Presidents

BY ALEXA WILLS AND MARCUS SMITH



We could not be more thrilled to welcome you to a new academic year with the launch of our first newsletter of 2024/2025. We are excited to serve as your BLS Co-Presidents this year and are looking forward to the year ahead of us.

Whether you're just starting out or returning, the BLS is here to help you navigate the path into the legal world, offering plenty of ways to broaden your network and get a head start in the job market.

One of the best parts of the TRU Law experience is the sense of community and mentorship you'll find here. We're lucky to work with amazing alumni from firms across BC and Alberta, and they're eager to connect with students like you. You'll also have the chance to meet and learn from legal professionals who are excited to chat with anyone passionate about business law. Our goal is to bridge the gap between law school and the world of practicing law.

Make sure to keep an eye on our newsletter for updates on upcoming events, lawyer interviews, and tips to help you succeed throughout the year. Our team is committed to providing you with the resources, support, and opportunities to thrive, both in school and beyond.

Get involved, ask questions, and take advantage of everything BLS has to offer! We can't wait to see you at our events, and if you have any questions, concerns, or need advice about law school, please feel free to stop us in the hallway! Let's make this year a great one together!





## Alumni Spotlight:

### Ian Jonson

As former Co-President, Ian was involved with the BLS in various roles since his 1L year. He joined the BLS shortly after arriving at TRU Law and was eager to help pass down the professional development opportunities that the BLS had provided him and his classmates as new law students. He is currently an articling student at Lawson Lundell in Vancouver.



### **Which skills/experiences from your time at the BLS that helped you in your work?**

One advantage for students at TRU Law is our tight-knit alumni network. The BLS Networking and Alumni Events, as well as events run by other clubs, are a great way to meet helpful lawyers. Connecting with practicing lawyers through the BLS was instrumental for my professional development in areas like recruiting etiquette, interview preparation, understanding various practice areas, and differentiating between legal markets. I'm grateful to the alumni and upper years who have helped me along the way. I also highly recommend the Dentons Negotiation Competition that the BLS runs, which offers experience in public speaking and advocacy that can be harder to find in the classroom.

## What is your favourite memory from TRU Law?

My favourite memories are the experiences shared with my classmates outside of school. Orientation, intramural sports, club involvement, and celebrating milestones with friends were all important in making the most of the TRU experience. I particularly enjoyed skiing at Sun Peaks and Revelstoke, and hiking around Kamloops. I highly recommend exploring trails in Kenna Cartwright and Peterson Creek, or the Lac Du Bois Grasslands and Wells Gray for something more adventurous!



## Would you recommend that students interested in business law enroll in any particular classes?

When I was at TRU, the Mergers & Acquisitions and Wills & Estates courses both offered highly practical drafting assignments that assisted me when I began real legal work. My own interests also led me to enjoy Contracts, Securities, Business Associations, Trusts, Basic Tax, and many other courses with a business focus. Articling students often recommend taking a course in legal research such as TRU's ALRW. Legal research tools can feel complex so early exposure helps build familiarity. Upper years planning to work in BC may also benefit from taking courses that align with the subjects covered by the PLTC.

In general, it's good practice to design course selection around your career interests. However, committing to future practice areas isn't necessarily an urgent decision for law students. If you aren't ready to commit to a specific career path, diversifying your classes may help you decide.



### What do you like most about working in business law?

Although I've only recently started the PLTC and the articling process, I enjoy the access to a variety of practice areas that business law offers. Commerce requires many kinds of legal services and it creates a broad range of intricate disputes. Whether you're interested in solicitors' work or litigation, there are many career pathways within the scope of business law. Career choices are deeply personal and speaking to upper years and lawyers about their experiences is a great first step in informing these decisions.



### What advice would you give to the incoming 1L Students?

Different strategies can be equally successful and law students often offer conflicting advice. It's a good idea to broaden your influences, trust your instincts, and run your own race. In my case, the two most helpful tactics in 1L were to rely on the experience of my upper year friends and to use all the time available throughout the semester to prepare for exams. In 1L, some of the easiest factors to control are your work ethic, attitude, preparation, and resilience. Remaining driven and curious with a cup half-full is the best way to get through.



Most of all, take care of each other!

## YOU ASKED, WE ANSWERED

RE: IN-FIRM RECRUIT

### What is a piece of advice you wish you had going into the in-firm recruit?

In-firm week is stressful and full of unknowns and it's easy to get caught up in the process. Going into in-firm week the best piece of advice I would give to anyone is to truly be yourself and focus your energy on the firm that you feel fits you the best, the motto of the week will "fit". Everyone interviewing is smart and likely has good grades, what will make you stand out is how you present yourself and get along with your interviewers. Be confident, be yourself, and you will find the firm where you fit best.

**-Tyler Williamson (3L)**  
**Clark Wilson LLP**



### How would you suggest preparing for the in-firm recruit?

I suggest sticking to what worked for you in OCI's! Make sure that you know your resume like the back of your hand and remember the STAR approach for behavioural questions. Aside from that, research your interviewers and the firms you are interviewing with, as in-firms are really the opportunity for firms to gauge whether you are genuinely interested in working for them. Above all, just be yourself and have confidence - this will make you stand out.

**-Alexa Wills (3L)**  
**Lawson Lundell LLP**

## Upcoming Events:

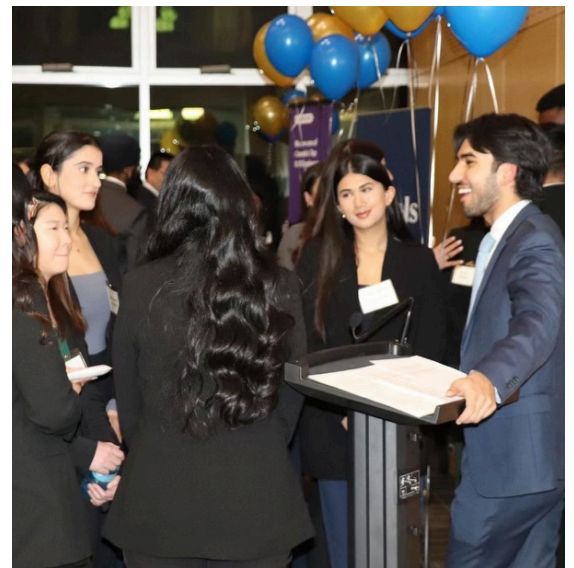
### BC Alumni Panel and Networking Event

**Date:** October 30th, 2024, 6-8pm

**Location:** Atrium

**Dress Code:** Business formal

The BLS has invited several TRU Law Alumni from top Vancouver firms to share their experiences in business law, the legal field and recruit. The panel will be followed by a Q&A and reception. This is a great opportunity to network and learn more about the dynamic nature of business law. Tickets are limited and registration will be opening in the coming weeks. Follow our Facebook/Instagram for registration updates!



### SAVE THE DATE

**What:** Alberta Alumni Panel and Networking Event

**When:** November 14, 2024

**Where:** Old Main 3rd Floor, Room TBD