

ISSUE 1 · OCTOBER 2022



THE TRU BUSINESS LAW SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the TRU Business Law Society's first newsletter of 2022!

The TRU Business Law Society (BLS) is your portal from law school to the world of corporate and commercial legal practice. Established in 2019, the Business Law Society has a mandate of facilitating professional and personal development, offering networking opportunities for students interested in business law, and providing practical and meaningful exposure to transactional legal work.

In this issue, our Alumni Spotlight focuses on our former Vice President of Events for the BLS, Kurt Haunsperger. Currently an articling student at Stikeman Elliott in Vancouver, Kurt answers questions about the rewarding aspects of business law, his experience with the BLS, and his favourite memories from TRU.

Happy reading!

This issue:

A Message From Our Presidents

PAGE 01

Alumni Spotlight: Kurt Haunsperger

PAGE 02

Announcements, Events, and Updates

PAGE 04



A Message From Our Presidents

BY OLIVIA MARTY AND MATTHEW VREUGDE



We are thrilled for the launch of our first newsletter of the 2022/23 academic year. As TRU students, we are privileged to have access to a network of alumni who are involved in an assortment of practice areas and who are eager to engage with the student body. This community provides TRU students with resources and connections that enhance the law school experience. In sharing insights from this network and beyond, our hope is that the newsletter will provide value for students looking to gain knowledge into the vast practice that is business law.

In addition to our newsletter, we hope you take advantage of our other opportunities to connect with and learn from practicing lawyers in business law through our podcast and events. We look forward to seeing you on campus and at our events; let's have a great year together!

Alumni Spotlight: Kurt Haunsperger

As the former Vice President of Events for the BLS, Kurt Haunsperger has been involved with the club since its inception in 2019. He first joined the BLS executive team as a 1L, and states that joining the club allowed him to become actively involved in the TRU Law community, make lasting friendships with many classmates of similar ambitions and interests, and continuously learning and exploring the vast practice of business law. Kurt is currently an articling student at Stikeman Elliott in Vancouver.

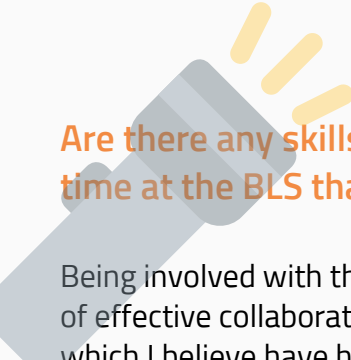


What is your favourite memory from TRU?

My favourite memory from TRU would be joining the BLS executive team in 1L during the club's founding year. Joining the BLS allowed me to become actively involved in the TRU Law community, make lasting friendship with many classmates of similar ambitions and interests, and continuously learn about and explore the vast and dynamic practice of business law.

What do you find most rewarding about business law?

For me, one of the most rewarding things about business law practice is finding successful resolutions or achieving successful results for our clients. Many business law clients approach lawyers with complex and unique commercial questions or problems, and seek counsel which can often affect the trajectory of a given business' success. In assisting such clients, business lawyers are asked to apply both their knowledge of the law as well as their own business sense and creativity in seeking to help their client achieve their desired goal. As I continue to grow in my practice, I am continuously impressed by how much care and expertise is given to every client's unique issues and distinct business needs. When our efforts come to fruition, and a client is pleased to have received the service they needed, it is always rewarding to feel that you were a part of that client's success.



Are there any skills or experiences from your time at the BLS that helped you in your work?

Being involved with the BLS taught me the importance of effective collaboration and communication, skills which I believe have helped me in practice. In many ways, being a law student is a “self-focused” exercise; one must often prioritize one’s own studies, grades, applications, etc. However, this is not often the case in legal practice. In my current work which focuses on corporate mergers & acquisitions, multiple lawyers and business experts will come together as a single team to effect large transactions. Everyone has an important role to play as we lead a deal towards closing, and the skills of effective collaboration and communication are critical in this endeavour. During my time as a member of the BLS, I had the chance collaborate with and learn from some amazing colleagues, and I continue to enjoy collaborating with others in my current practice.



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

Because it is such a vast and dynamic area, I believe students interested in business law should take as many business-related courses as they can during their time in school. This will allow them to gather a solid picture of the many business law practices that exist in the legal profession. During my time at TRU Law, I found courses such as Securities Law, Mergers & Acquisitions, Basic Tax, Corporate Tax, and Secured Transactions to be quite valuable, as they provided a solid introduction and foundation in areas of law with which I now frequently engage. However, I note that business law is also a practice that cannot be summed up in a single academic course, and I have found that a lot of my learning continues to take place as I immerse myself in my current practice, supplemented by the academic courses I took at TRU.





Upcoming Events:

Alumni Networking Night

The TRU Business Law Society is hosting our annual Alumni Networking events on November 1st and 2nd this year! To help you make the most of the experience, we're now holding separate events for Alberta and BC. Not sure where you want to work after school? Go to both!

On November 1st (BC) or November 2nd (Alberta), hop on Zoom in business casual and you and your classmates will be sorted into a round robin of breakout rooms with different alumni. The conversations are unstructured and we just ask that you will bring lots of questions to kick things off!

The Alumni Networking event is not an interview! It's a stress-free opportunity to learn about practice areas, interview processes, and working at a law firm from friendly alumni who are eager to meet you. Some of the firms that will be represented this year include Dentons, Blakes, Norton Rose, Fasken, and McLennan Ross. We look forward to seeing you there!

British Columbia Alumni Networking Event

Date: Nov 1, 2022 @ 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (PST)

Location: Zoom (with link to follow)

Dress Code: Business casual. We encourage attendees to dress to impress, appear on camera, and interact with our speakers.

Alberta Alumni Networking Event

Date: Nov 2, 2022 @ 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PST)

Location: Zoom (with link to follow)

Dress Code: Business casual. We encourage attendees to dress to impress, appear on camera, and interact with our speakers.

