

Lawyers Hourly Rates Here to Stay – Notwithstanding Hot and Humorous Contention

On October 28th, 2009, Boughton Law Corporation and the British Columbia Law Institute jointly hosted the immensely successful 2nd Annual Great Debate at the Law Courts Inn, Vancouver. Featuring a social hour, dinner, the GREATdebate and prizes, the event was sponsored by HSBC, The Counsel Network, Manning Elliot, and a showing of local artists' work hosted by D'or Art.

George Cadman, Q.C. of Boughton Law Corp., hosted the evening and Rick Cluff, host of CBC Radio 1 "The Early Edition", presided as moderator for the debate. Debate teams represented UVic Law and UBC Law and debated the resolution: "Resolved that the hourly rate for lawyers compares to the asteroid for dinosaurs." UVic Dean Donna Greschner, and Bartalk Columnist/UVic Law graduate Tony Wilson of Boughton Law Corporation, supported the resolution. Arguing against the resolution was UBC Dean Mary Anne Bobinski and UBC Law Graduate Michael Bain of Hamilton Howell.

The debaters delivered creative and thoughtful presentations and rebuttals, including substantial comedic infusions culminating in Mr. Bain's on-the-spot creation of an 'avian limerick.' The judging panel comprised the Honourable Wally Oppal, Q.C., former Attorney General of British Columbia, the Honourable Lance Finch, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, B.C., and the Honourable Robert Bauman, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, B.C. The Judges continued the jocular mood by delivering a unanimous and light-hearted decision that awarded victory and the Greatdebate Trophy to Team UBC.

The 2009 GREATdebate will be remembered as one of this year's Professional event highlights. Proceeds raised from this year's GREATdebate are being divided between the BCLI, to fund law reform initiatives, and the UVic Faculty of Law.

