

Jill Makepeace

The Criminal Lawyers' Association has a vital role to play in the administration of justice. Despite the embrace of modernization compelled by the pandemic, much remains to be done to ensure a fair, effective and efficient system of criminal justice. This is not merely an ideal. This is a constitutional imperative. We can and must do more to ensure that every person charged with an offence receives what our supreme law guarantees. And this without compromise. The most significant obstacle remains adequate funding. A more robust system of Legal Aid. Adequate facilities. Staff to run courtrooms. Judges to decide cases. If elected, I will work diligently on your behalf to achieve these objectives.

I am a partner at Greenspan Humphrey Weinstein LLP. I have been a criminal defence lawyer and member of the CLA since my call to the bar more than 17 years ago. For 13 of those years, I served as a part of the *For the Defence* team. First, as a columnist producing "The Docket" for each issue. Then, for almost seven years as co-editor.

At this stage of my career, I have decided to run for a position on the Executive because I believe that I have acquired sufficient professional experience to contribute in a meaningful way to the CLA Board. In addition, I am fortunate to have the support of my colleagues and the personal capacity to meet the demands and responsibilities of any seat on the Executive.

I am inspired to step forward as an Executive candidate by many of my mentors who have held seats on the governing body. Many leaders of the Bar and Bench reflect on their time on the Board with pride, purpose and a sense of fulfillment. Hearing their united experience leads me to conclude that this is an opportunity that I do not want to miss.

This year's ballot includes a diverse and impressive group of hardworking and dedicated members of our organization. I would welcome the opportunity to work alongside any one of them. In particular, I was pleased to learn that we will have the steady hand of Boris Bytensky leading the Association as our next President. We are extremely fortunate to have his depth of experience, impeccable judgment and tireless dedication at the helm for this next term. I would be honoured to serve on the Board under his leadership.