

## ADVICETALK NEWS—MARCH 2009

### *LIVE and EXPOSED! (Press Release)*

*President Nancy Kinney announces the launch of AdviceScene.com—the first Canadian website delivering free law information and advice from lawyers to the public. AdviceScene.com is a fully moderated, social networking community linking lawyers and the public providing a free and democratic exchange of Canadian legal resources.*

### *Lawyers Democratizing the Law*

The AdviceScene forum is a perfect fit for lawyers and law students committed to democratizing the law. The AdviceScene forum is an ideal way for lawyers and law students to collaborate on legal topics while helping the rest of us make sense of the law. Please tell all the law students and lawyers you know about AdviceScene. That way we can have even more information and collaboration to build our 'LawWiki' of information. A great way to help us spread the word is by posting a link on your [Facebook](#) profile.

We have welcomed several lawyers to the site and we're expecting more to sign up from across the country this month. Two of the first lawyers to answer questions on the forum were Jim Clapp and John Alexander, both from Victoria:

#### [Jim Clapp \(Clapp and Company, Victoria, BC\)](#)



Jim is our Wills and Estates expert on the AdviceScene forum. His practice spans nearly four decades! Over the years Jim has gained extensive knowledge in many areas of the law; and his practice included considerable trial experience. Today his practice areas include wills and estates, family, corporate/commercial, and intellectual property. Jim specializes in free enterprise: he has helped many young entrepreneurs over the years, often for a reduced fee, just for sake of free enterprise. Jim is committed to the democratization of the law: when we asked Jim to join AdviceScene he replied, "Sure why not, I already answer legal questions for free almost daily, why not do it online at my leisure?" Jim was quick to realize the benefit of providing free legal advice and information in exchange for free advertising for his firm. In Jim's practice, as in any lawyer's practice, he often has to call up a legal colleague when he's unsure about something that is outside his scope of knowledge or experience. His colleagues very often do the same when they

need to know something that Jim knows. Wouldn't it be nice if the we all could do this when we run up against a legal problem that we don't know the answer to? Hopefully the AdviceScene forum will prove over time to offer this same kind of free advice and general information that is available to lawyers. Jim is a championship golfer, photographer extraordinaire, and a fabulous speaker—so if you need golf lessons you know who to ask!

James R. Clapp, B.A., LL, B.

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[John Alexander \(Cox Taylor, Victoria, BC\)](#)



John is considered a municipal law expert in Victoria, though he practises in other areas of law as well. John has recently been involved with constitutional law cases involving division of powers in the context of marina use, vessels, and federal harbours. He is counsel for the Association of BC Land Owners; and has represented them recently in a successful zoning challenge to the Regional District down zoning of several thousand hectares of land from Sooke to Jordan River (an appeal is under way). John is committed to the 'democratization of the law:' He is an active member of the AdviceScene legal forum; and he also provides advice and representation to community and environmental groups often on a pro bono basis. John recently represented a small society in the Union Bay area on Vancouver Island who are concerned about a very substantial development in their area. The development has the potential to cause significant contamination and raises fears about the adequacy of community drinking water supplies. John represented this Society in a zoning bylaw challenge funded in part by the West Coast Environmental Law Association (decision pending). John is the Chair of the Board of Sport BC and continues to work on amateur sport issues in BC. Look for John's responses to municipal law questions on the forum and feel free to send him questions in other areas too (Labour and Employment, Environmental, Constitutional, and Marine Law).



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**At AdviceScene.com we believe in democratization of the law through collaboration and sharing of information. We encourage all members to post useful information on the forum. We want to hear about your legal experiences.**

## **MoralityMeter Results are in!**

It looks as though people think that polygamy (being married to more than one person) is really not O.K.

The meter sits at 6 out of 10, where it has remained now

for the past couple of weeks, meaning that people think polygamy should not be legal, but they don't consider it a really bad crime. Look for the new MoralityMeter question coming in the next few days (hint: something to do with drugs).



## **Coming Soon**



The AdviceMeter and the CyberCourt will be launched this month. The AdviceMeter will allow you to send in your question or dilemma for a decision. The CyberCourt will allow you to get a legal decision for

free—no need for a lawyer, judge or a courtroom! We'll keep you posted with these new developments.



## **Advertise with us**

You can help yourself while you help others when you advertise on AdviceScene. We donate 5% of gross advertising revenues to societies providing free legal services; and we have ridiculously low rates.

To Register on our forum:

[http://www.advicescene.com/canadian\\_legal\\_forum/](http://www.advicescene.com/canadian_legal_forum/)

To Register on our Directory:

<http://advicescene.com/lawyers/>

Advertise with us:

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"My greatest professional satisfaction comes from teaching clients to better understand their legal rights"