

Receiving the Alan D. Hunter Volunteer of the Year award:

It is a great honour to receive this award. As I read about the passion and accomplishments of the late Mr. Alan D. Hunter Q.C., I begin to understand how truly special this is and I hope to be able to contribute to this profession as much as he did; he is an inspiration.

To be able to practice the law is a privilege and every day I am grateful to be able to be one of the few who are trusted with this task. When my career in law began, I thought I would be a Crown Prosecutor; however, I found that that line of work was not a fit for me. After some reflection, I chose to practice family law as I felt that it would truly allow me to use my personality, education and talents to help others.

The job of a family law lawyer is not an easy one for lawyers. However, the adversarial family law system makes it even more difficult for the public to navigate. They are the ones saddled with the stress of family conflict, a fear of “the system”, not to mention the other barriers they may face such as being a survivor of abuse; living with mental health, addictions, and health issues; and/or living in poverty.

I decided early on in my career to do my best to not add to the burdens of the public; but to help guide them through their family law matters to the best of my ability. As a result of this decision, once I became more confident in my skills and abilities, I pursued volunteering with Calgary Legal Guidance.

Volunteering at CLG has reminded me of my value as a family law lawyer and fuelled my passion for access to justice. It is an honour to be trusted to assist the public with their complex legal matters.

I love what I do, I love volunteering at CLG and I hope to be able to continue giving back to my community by working with the CLG for years to come.

Thanks again!