

In October, I was delighted to receive the Alan D. Hunter Volunteer of the year award.

This is really special for me, I am humbled to receive this award, here's why:

I began volunteering at Calgary Legal Guidance a year after my Bar Call. Volunteering at Calgary Legal Guidance was initially about learning skills. Just imagine, meeting with a client for the first time, getting them comfortable with you, asking them to divulge some of the biggest struggles they are then facing, pushing them for more information where you need it, analyzing the situation, advising them in a way they can understand, and then sending them on their way. Oh! And there is 30 minutes to do all of this. It was a daunting task (I highly recommend it! – Thanks to all of my clients for their incredible patience).

More recently my motivation for volunteering at Calgary Legal Guidance has shifted. As a Family Law Lawyer, we can help people deal with some of the biggest worries in their lives. Some examples? “When do I get to see my children? How am I going to pay my mortgage next month? Where am I going to sleep next week? How will I finalize my divorce? When can I start dating again - Is that okay?”

Answering these kinds of questions is tough, but the difficulty compounds when one does not know where to turn for help or even where to start looking.

Many of us have faced similar situations. Situations that in the moment seemed insurmountable. Remember how that felt? Head hung low, shoulders hunched... rough.

Now imagine, that you had the ability to help someone start to turn that around, in just 30 minutes. Not solve the problem necessarily, but at least point them in the right direction and give them an idea on where to find a solution.

At CLG we have that ability. It can be incredible to see the fog lift a little for someone, see their shoulders relax just a bit, see them hold their head slightly higher – even for a moment.

Empowering lives through law. Humbling and fulfilling in the most indescribable of ways.

Thanks CLG for this award, and for all that you do!