

Names in the News

NEWS

MOVES

■ **Borden Ladner Gervais LLP** (BLG) recently raided **Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP's** Ottawa office. **Jamie Mills, Chantal Saunders and Beverley Moore** all recently jumped to BLG from Gowlings. Mills and Saunders are now partners specializing in intellectual property (IP), while Moore joins them as an associate also specializing in IP.

■ In Toronto, **Daniel Nauth** has joined **Hodgson Russ LLP's** corporate and securities practice group. Nauth focuses his practice on Canada/U.S. cross-border corporate finance and securities issues. Hodgson Russ attorneys advise Canadian clients on U.S. legal issues affecting cross-border business operations in the United States. The firm is one of the few U.S. law firms with a full-time office in Toronto devoted exclusively to practising U.S. law. In addition to its Toronto office the firm also has four offices in New York state and one in Florida.

■ In Montreal, **Mireille Fontaine** joins Gowlings as a partner. Fontaine was previously with **McCarthy Tétrault LLP**. **Julie Desrochers** also joins Gowlings as a partner in Montreal. Desrochers was previously with **Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP**.

■ In Calgary, **Greg Lindsey** joins **Gowlings** as a partner. He was previously with **Felesky Flynn LLP**.

LAW FIRM NEWS

■ In Vancouver, **Bull, Housser & Tupper LLP** was recently ranked 12th among the "50 Best Small & Medium Employers in Canada." According to the best employers study, the firm holds the top spot for best law firm in Canada to work for. The study, now in its sixth year, is published in the *Globe and Mail* and *PROFIT Magazine*. The national study done by Queen's University and Hewitt Associates recognizes top employers with between 50 and 400 employees.

From tennis courts to courtrooms

MICHAEL BENEDICT TORONTO

When she was just 11, Jennifer Bishop left her family in Newfoundland to live in London, Ont. to play tennis year-round. "I was very independent," she recalls. "I practised three hours a day and played tournaments on the weekends. I loved it!"

Now a mergers and acquisitions partner at Miller Thomson LLP, Bishop, 38, still finds time for tennis, although she took a five-year break from the game when she traded in her racquets for a set of golf clubs. At the end of March Bishop will be representing Canada in Mexico City at the Seniors World Team championship in the 35-years-plus category.

Bishop started playing in her coach's basement at the age of five. There were no indoor courts in St. John's, Nfld. where she grew up. By the time she was 11, she was playing in tournaments throughout Atlantic Canada and had qualified for the Canadian Nationals.

Clearly, she was ready for more intensive training and left home for the All-Canadian Tennis Academy, then located in London, Ont. By the time she was 14, she thought about turning pro after winning one junior national title and a bushel of Atlantic Canadian crowns. But her parents persuaded her to stay in school, and she parlayed her prowess into an athletic scholarship at the tennis powerhouse University of South Florida in Tampa, Fla.

During her four undergraduate years, she had the marks, a minimum 3.0 grade-point average, and the talent to make the all-Big East Conference team every year. After graduation, she worked as a teaching pro while working on a master's degree in mass communication at the University of South Florida. That led to an internship with the Fox News affiliate in Tampa, Fla. "I wanted to be a sports reporter," she says.



PHOTO BY FRANKLIN WONG

Jennifer Bishop holds her daughter after winning a national championship last summer.

LAWYER OF THE WEEK

But Bishop was not prepared to wait the minimum five years she figured it would take to get the right break. Instead, she went to law school at the University of Windsor. "Law always interested me," says Bishop, "but more as an academic pursuit. I didn't know what I wanted to do with it."

At law school, she coached junior players at a local tennis club. However, when Bishop began articling with Macleod Dixon LLP in Toronto, that was the end of tennis, or any

sport, at least for a while. Bishop took up golf when she realized, "a lot of business was being done on the golf course."

After her daughter was born in 2007, Bishop no longer had time for golf and returned to tennis. She plays four mornings a week at six for about 90 minutes, returning home to have breakfast with her husband, also a lawyer, and daughter before heading to the office. Bishop did not intend to play competitively again, but the club pro pushed her and

Name:

Jennifer Bishop

Law school:

University of Windsor

Called to the Bar:

2001

Career highlights:

1999 Received the J.W. Whiteside Award for outstanding commitment and service to the faculty of law, legal profession and community

2008 Became partner at Miller Thomson LLP

2009 Helped lure Great Big Sea for a concert that raised \$150,000 for St. John's, Nfld.'s Daffodil Place, where out-of-town cancer patients stay while receiving treatment

"I'm thrilled to be back in playing condition."

She has since won two national championships in doubles and is ranked second in singles for her age category. Besides tennis, Bishop's extra curricular work includes a number of charitable activities. She heads the firm's nationwide Women's Leadership Initiative concerned with female retention. She also raises funds at her local tennis club for inner-city play and, along with several other ex-pat Newfoundlanders, holds a major annual fundraising event for a charity "back home." Last year, Bishop helped lure Great Big Sea for a Toronto concert that raised \$150,000 for Daffodil Place, where cancer patients from outside St. John's, Nfld. stay while receiving treatment in the city.

After Mexico City, Bishop plans to enter a number of other tournaments, including the Canadian nationals in Vancouver in August. Asked how she can afford all the time away from the office, Bishop serves an ace: "My numbers don't show that I've been away." ■

Got news?

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