

Jillian Gamez-Candidate for Secretary of CBA Alberta Branch (2026)-Biography



I am the managing lawyer of Kazlaw Injury Lawyer's Edmonton office and a long-time member of the Canadian Bar Association-Alberta Branch (CBA-AB). My practice is focused on representing plaintiffs in personal injury matters, with a particular emphasis on historical sexual abuse matters.

I first joined the Young Lawyers Section in 2011. I joined the executive shortly after and ultimately became co-chair of that section. The breadth of community and the support I felt in that volunteer role led me to join the executive of the Civil Litigation, Elder Law, and Women's Legal Forum sections.

In 2020, I joined the CBA-AB Board of Directors for a two-year term as a member-at-large. The opportunity to work with the leaders of the CBA, set strategic directions and develop policies was meaningful and hard work, made easier by the volunteers around the table. In 2022, I put my name forward for a second two-year term.

Other involvement with the CBA-AB branch includes organizing a grief symposium with Elder Law; contributions to the development of the mentor circle pilot project; and co-chairing the CBA-AB online publication, Law Matters (2024-2026).

Lawyer mental wellbeing and community are important to me personally, and are part of the strategic goals of CBA-AB. I have also been actively involved with Players de Novo (Lawyer Show), helping create opportunities for lawyers, students, and members of the judiciary to connect through the arts while supporting the theatre community. I additionally helped establish the Edmonton chapter of Returnity, a group supporting lawyers on parental leave.

I am also working with ASSIST and a variety of other stakeholders on creating an accessible, trauma responsive seminar for all members of the Alberta legal community.

Beyond my work with the CBA, I recently concluded my term as President of the Alberta Civil Trial Lawyers Association, where I gained significant experience in advocacy, government relations, and stakeholder engagement across Alberta's legal community.

My longstanding commitment to service, collaborative leadership style, and deep involvement in Alberta's legal community have prepared me for the role of Secretary of CBA-AB.

I understand the significant challenges facing Alberta lawyers, including increasing pressures on mental health and wellbeing, barriers to access to justice, rapidly evolving technology, rising practice costs, and the need to maintain public confidence in the rule of law and legal institutions.

I strongly believe these challenges are best addressed through collaboration, strong professional advocacy, mentorship, and meaningful member engagement.

I would be honoured to continue serving the membership in a new capacity as Secretary of the CBA-AB.