

David Girard



## CBA Alberta Board Application Response

### Why I Want to Serve on the CBA Alberta Board of Directors

I am committed to serving on the CBA Alberta Board because I believe the legal profession has a fundamental responsibility to advance access to justice and strengthen the integrity of our justice system. Since being called to the Alberta bar in 2014, I have witnessed firsthand how the decisions we make as lawyers—and as a profession—directly impact the communities we serve. This board position represents an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to that mission at a systemic level.

My legal career has given me diverse perspectives on the profession's challenges and opportunities. Beginning in commercial litigation, I developed a deep appreciation for strategic advocacy and the complexities of civil practice. My subsequent transition to insurance defence (via family law) has broadened my understanding of how our profession operates across different practice areas and client communities. These experiences have reinforced my conviction that the Canadian Bar Association must be a strong, unified voice advocating for both our members and the public we serve.

What drives me most is a passion for access to justice. I have seen too many individuals and businesses struggle to navigate the legal system or afford adequate representation. I believe the CBA Alberta Board has a critical role to play in addressing these barriers—whether through advocating for legal reforms, supporting innovative service delivery models, or ensuring that professional standards remain high while remaining responsive to changing client needs. The profession's credibility depends on our commitment to these principles.

Beyond access to justice, I am deeply invested in the advocacy function of the Canadian Bar Association. The legal profession must be willing to take

principled stands on issues affecting the rule of law, the administration of justice, and the rights our clients depend on. I want to contribute to discussions and decisions that shape how we engage with government, other stakeholders, and the public on matters that affect both our profession and the broader justice system. Whether it involves legislative reform, regulatory modernization, or public education about the value of our profession, I believe board members must bring both thoughtfulness and conviction.

My bilingual background also positions me to help ensure that the CBA's work reflects and serves Alberta's diverse legal community. I am committed to fostering an inclusive profession where all voices are heard and valued.

I am ready to bring my experience, perspective, and genuine commitment to service to this role. I welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with fellow board members to advance the CBA's mission and contribute to a stronger, more responsive, and more accessible justice system for all Albertans.