

- legal 
- counselling 
- interpretation 
- education 
- advocacy 

# Barbra Schlifer

## Commemorative Clinic

Freedom From Violence.

## Recession and Rain But What An Event! Over \$102,000 Raised at Annual "Tribute" Fundraiser



Group of guests at The Tribute fundraiser.



Volunteers Casey Krpan and Billee Laskin at The Tribute event registration

**On June 17, 2009 the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual "Tribute" fundraiser. This year fundraising presented special challenges to non-profit organizations that rely upon the generosity of individual and corporate donors, but with the help of our dedicated Board of Directors, committed sponsors, businesses and individual donors this event was once again a huge success.**

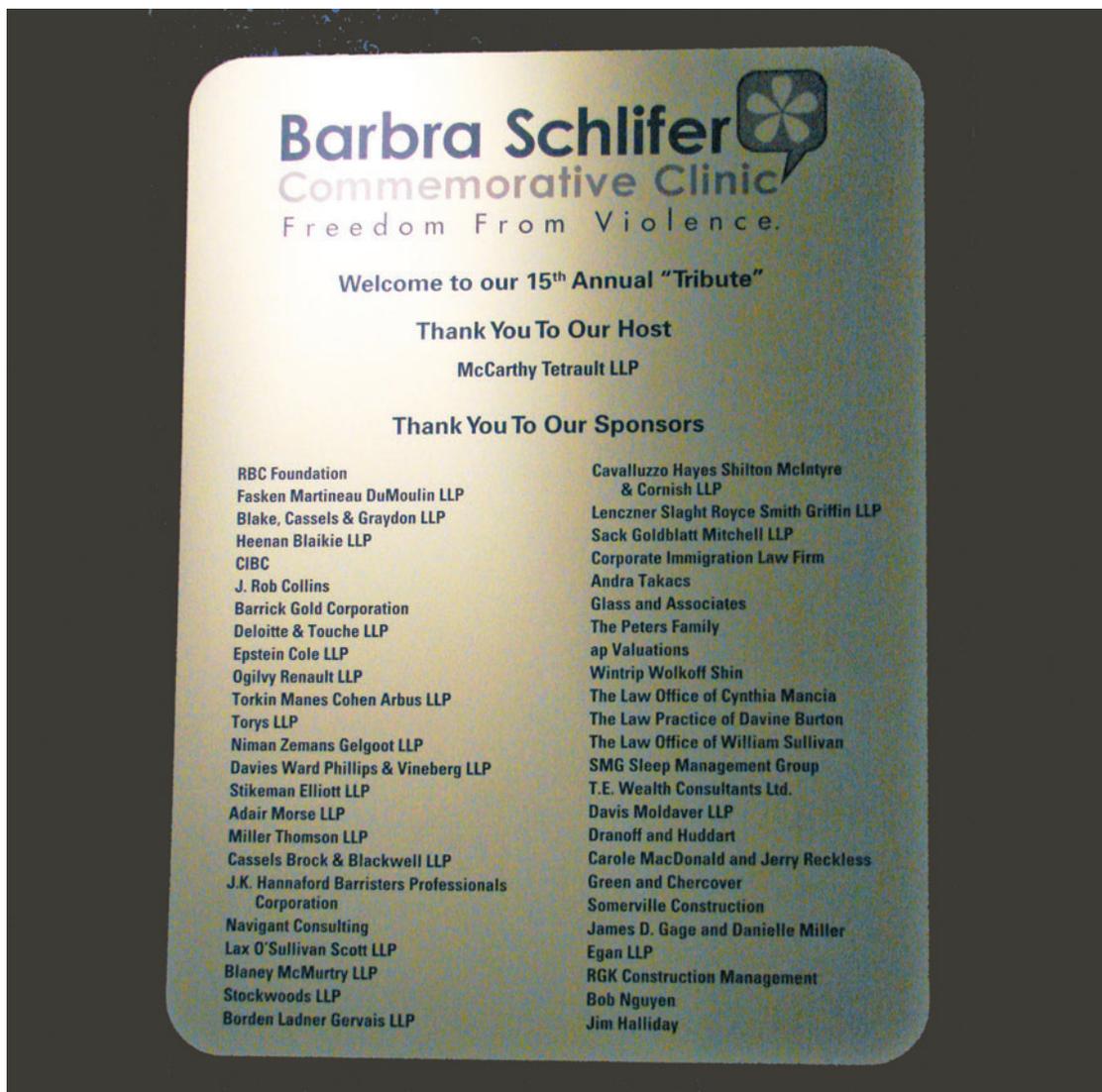
Rain held us indoors, but did not stop over 350 supporters of the Clinic from enjoying an evening of food, fun, live and silent auctions, meeting new friends and business acquaintances, while raising funds to assist women who are survivors of violence by providing legal services in family and immigration law, individual and group counselling programs, information and referrals, and interpretation in 65 languages for non-English speaking immigrant and refugee women.

This year, sponsors of the event contributed over \$67,500! We are extremely grateful for the many years of commitment and long-standing support of McCarthy Tetrault LLP Host of this fabulous event.

The Board and staff of the Clinic would like to extend special thanks to our new Sponsors: Barrick Gold Corporation, Deloitte & Touche LLP, Niman Zeman Gelgoot LLP, Miller Thomson LLP, J.K. Hannaford Barristers Professionals Corporations, ap Valuations, Davis Moldaver LLP, Dranoff and Huddart, Green and Chercover, James D. Gage and Danielle Miller, RGK Construction Management, Bob Nguyen and Jim Halliday. We welcome our new partnerships, thank you.

We would also like to thank our annual partners: RBC Foundation, Heenan Blaikie LLP, Epstein Cole LLP, Glass and Associates Fasken

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*Continued from page 1*

Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, CIBC, J. Rob Collins, Ogilvy Renault LLP, Torkin Manes Cohen Arbus LLP, Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, Stikeman Elliott LLP, Adair Morse LLP, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, Navigant Consulting, Lax O'Sullivan Scott LLP, Blaney McMurtry LLP, Stockwoods LLP, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish LLP, Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP, The Law Office of Melanie Sager, The Law Office of Cynthia Mancina, The Law Office of William Sullivan, SMG Sleep Management Group, Somerville Construction, Jerry Reckless, and Carole MacDonald, Torys LLP, Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP, Corporate Immigration Law Firm, Wintrip Wolkoff Shin, The Law Practice of Davine Burton, Andra Takacs, The Peters Family, T.E. Wealth Consultants Ltd. and Egan LLP. We truly appreciate your partnerships and years of support. Thank you for your on-going support, which makes a difference in the lives of women.

Special thanks to NOW Magazine and Via Rail Canada who donated

a trip as part of our fabulous Getaway Package Raffle and to Norman Hardie Winery & Vineyards, The Ladies Golf Club of Toronto, Sommelier -Tony Aspler, Chef -Marcus Gellisen, Mission Hill Family Estate Winery, Fairmount Royal York Hotel, Clarkson Rouble LLP Chartered Accountants, Carole MacDonald, Mulino Restaurant, Taste of the Silk Road, Vimal Sapru, Julia and Dave Phelan, BRAVADA, California Closets, Mazen Studio, Red Hill Designs Urn and Garden, and to Steven Rosenhek for their generous donations to our live and silent auctions.

This year the expertise of professional Auctioneer Barbara Richards helped us to raise over \$10,000 at our live auction. To our Board of Directors, event consultants, staff, volunteers, the many individuals and businesses who donated gifts-in-kind for the silent auction, Chris Higgins for the wonderful PowerPoint presentation and everyone who joined us at this spectacular event, our sincere appreciation. Our fundraising met its financial goals because of the hard work and dedication of each of you. We look forward to your partnership again next year 🌸

# 15th Annual “Tribute” Fundraiser Speech

As humans, we have an amazing capacity to learn and to understand the world around us. Scientists have been able to sequence a genome, technology allows us to speak to friends and family on the other side of the globe, humans have even been able to stand on the moon. But somehow in spite of these advances, we are still left wondering: Why are there still people starving in our own country? Why is domestic violence and child abuse still so common? This global social dichotomy is mirrored by the complexity of individual behavior where we see and experience that humans are capable of both unimaginably brutal violence but also capable of complete and utter compassion and care.

While we may not be able to comprehend the depths of these actions, all of us have some experience that lies on this spectrum of complex behavior. I came to Toronto four years ago, trying desperately to escape from a childhood full of neglect that led to physical and sexual abuse in both my childhood and in my young adult years. As I grew up I learned to hate myself, loathe every part of my being, and detest everything about myself that I possibly could. I felt guilty for being a part of such terrible events and assumed that my own doing brought much of it on. My only recourse was to pretend as though I was just like every other person, and pretend as though I was normal. I felt that so many people across the world and throughout history had survived horrific events worse than my own life, so I had no right to feel pity or compassion for myself. I also felt that every time happiness might creep up on me, something would happen to rip it away so thoroughly that I also believed that I had no right to be happy in my life. The absolute loathing that I felt for myself every day was more than I could bear, and I couldn't see a reason to continue life like that. I came to the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic two years ago to participate in a group for women survivors of childhood sexual abuse. I didn't know it at the time, but it became perhaps the most pivotal point in my life. No immediate change happened, but finally realizing that I had a right to feel as though I deserved more in life, a right to feel happy and to have a whole and complete family – these were ideas that suddenly were within reason. I was shocked to meet other women who felt the same desperation in life, who had learned to cope in much the same manner as I had. Simply not needing to hide my horrible experiences from others was a tremendous experience for me. Participating in that group was overwhelming at times, but the one-on-one counseling was what really brought me to where I am today. After years of silently psychoanalyzing every part of my experience, I had come to the conclusions that I was unworthy, unable, and undesirable as a person. Time and time again, Tina Bhinder, a Counselor at the Clinic,

offered just a slightly different perspective and an immense amount of compassion and insight for everything that I told her. I cannot begin to express how thankful I am to her specifically for her patience and unending support for me. It is her and women like her that often make me wonder how it is that they can come to work every day and hear the horrible accounts of so many women, see the depths of evil in human nature that these women have experienced, and still be able to care for them so completely. At some point, wouldn't they lose their faith in humanity? Wouldn't they be overcome by seeing only the dark and evil side of humanity that clients like myself bring to their doorsteps? These women who have dedicated their lives to this work are amazing people who quietly convey to the world the other side of human nature that is beautiful, compassionate, and loving. We owe them a debt of gratitude that perhaps can never truly be repaid.

I have seen first-hand the immense emotional and mental support that Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic offers to women. However, I am continually amazed that this organization has gone above and beyond the counseling and group therapies that contribute to the somewhat ethereal aspects of life by also offering language interpretation and legal services for women who are in need. The Clinic has pursued every avenue necessary to give women their voices back and help them get their lives back on track. We may never be able to answer the existential questions of why violence and abuse still happen, but the work at the Clinic shows that the traumatic impacts that violence and abuse have on women and children can be alleviated with adequate support. This astounding work that is done on a daily basis at the Barbra Schlifer Clinic is perhaps understated by their unassuming office space, but the gratitude and appreciation from us who have received assistance could be shouted from every rooftop in Toronto and still be inadequately expressed. For myself and for many women, the Clinic offers a second chance at life and is a beacon of light in a dark and lonely world. Thank you to each of you who work at the Clinic to directly offer counseling, interpreting, legal, education, and advocacy services for women in need. Thank you to each of you who plans, organizes, and fundraises to allow for all these activities at the Clinic. Thank you to each person who has contributed financially to enable these activities at the Clinic. From me and from every woman who has benefited from the services at the Clinic, we thank each of you who have helped us get our voices back. ❁

— *Speech Delivered by Clinic client*

# Farewell Speech for Darlene

— at Tribute, June 17th, 2009

Darlene Lawson has been our Executive Director since September 2001. As an 8-year veteran of the Clinic, Darlene has been the longest running ED in the Clinic's history.

Darlene came to the Clinic on the eve of 9-11 and she shared with her new colleagues, the horror and disbelief that we all experienced as we watched the events of that day unfold. I so well remember Darlene sitting with all of us on that day, in front of the television in our staff lunch room, listening in silence to the news reports, and feeling to me, and I think to everyone else, like an old friend in the Clinic, there to give support and comfort, even though she'd only been there for a few hours. Over these last 8 years, Darlene has, in fact, become a friend, a greatly valued colleague, and a leader in our organization.

Darlene has poured her heart and soul into the Schlifer Clinic and she has remained throughout a steadfast and vigilant supporter and promoter of the Schlifer ideal-which is freedom, social justice, and equality for all women who are victims of violence.

Darlene has also been a skilled administrator and manager of finances, human resources, and programme development. But she has been much more than that. Executive Directors must be visionary, they must possess great skills in unique areas (like policy or programme development, H.R. administration or fundraising) and they must have considerable leadership qualities –but the challenge lies in the blending and focusing



of all of these skills and abilities to provide direction to an organization as complex as the Schlifer Clinic. It is a difficult task at the best of times, and Darlene, took up that challenge with courage, determination, and humour from the get-go.

Everyone associated with the Schlifer Clinic will remember Darlene as a kind and generous supporter of all associated with the Clinic, its staff, volunteers and of course, its clients. She has also been greatly respected by those connected to our funders, including those in government, and by many others who have been political allies across the various sectors within which we work. The continued development and quality of our service- delivery to women clients (who are amongst the most marginalized of individuals in our community) has always been one of Darlene's primary concerns throughout the years, and she has maintained a consistent focus on the multi-layered needs of all of the women from diverse backgrounds who have come to the Clinic for help.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Clinic, I'd like to thank you Darlene for your service to the Schlifer Clinic over these last 8 years, and for your unwavering commitment to women victims of violence. We will all miss you.

Darlene has left the Clinic to take on her new position the Chief of Staff of the New Democratic Party of Ontario. We wish her well in this challenging new job. ❀

— Speech delivered by Mary Lou Fassel, Director of Legal Services



## Good-Byes and Welcomes

*You each bring many strengths and much commitment to the women the Clinic serves.*

### BOARD MEMBERS

The Board and staff of the Clinic would like to sincerely thank Board members Linda Robinson and Carla Swansburg for their contributions and service to the Clinic. We wish both of you the very best; you will be missed.

We would also like to welcome Jodie Wolkoff and Simone Lau to the Board. They each bring many skills, strengths and much commitment to the Clinic and we look forward to working with them in the years to come.

### COUNSELLING STAFF

The Clinic is pleased to welcome Farrah Khan and Carolina Gana, Counselor/Advocates to the counselling team. Both Farrah and Carolina bring much strength to their work with trauma survivors and we look forward to working with them in the future. We are also sad to say goodbye to Gita Akhosh and Norma Hannant. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. The counselling department also said goodbye to our counsellor Petra Batek-Goold and Ketrina Dilo who joined other agencies earlier this year. It was wonderful working with such great women.

### STUDENTS PLACEMENTS

The Clinic is fortunate to have many gifted students do their placements with us. This year Shanna Giroux, Yvette Kennedy, Motu Awogade, Christine Elbaramawi, Katherine Trainor, Aida Badillo, and Retha Ganaprakasam joined us to work in various programs in the counselling department.

### LEGAL STAFF

The Clinic sadly announces that Staff Lawyers Alice Cranker and Lee Ann Siu have left the Clinic. Alice joined our staff in September 2003 providing family law services to our clients. Alice promoted her client's legal rights with great skill, was highly successful in the Courts and treated her clients with exceptional compassion and respect. Lee Ann Siu joined our team as our first Articling Student in 2006/07. Lee Ann practiced family law for the first 2 years of her tenure at the Clinic switching to immigration and refugee protection law in her third year. Like Alice, Lee Ann is an extremely talented lawyer and demonstrated great compassion for her clients. Lee Ann's skill and expertise grew steeply over the 3 years of her employment at the Clinic and she has contributed greatly to the acquisition of our client's legal rights and protections. Both Alice and Lee Ann have been

**If you would like to volunteer at the Clinic please call Julia Sanchez at 416.323.9149 x 240 or visit our website: [www.schliferclinic.com](http://www.schliferclinic.com)**



**Receiving her award, Linda Robinson Board Member**

exceptional lawyers and valued colleagues within the Clinic. They not only performed their work with great energy and commitment but were also great supporters and promoters of the Clinic in all respects. Alice and Lee Ann will be greatly missed. We wish them both well in their future endeavors.

We want to thank our 2008/2009 articling student Sayran Sulevani for her work in the Legal Department during that year, and welcome her back as our newest staff lawyer, starting November, 2009. We also welcome Shannon Lavell our 2009/2010 articling student, and Kate Mikos our newest U. of T. placement student. ❀



**Lee Ann Siu staff Lawyer**



**Alice Cranker staff lawyer**

## Social Purpose Enterprise

BSCC's Interpreter Services Department has been providing Interpreter Services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Province of Ontario. I.S. has been receiving funds from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to provide this service since 1987.

In the Fall of 2008, BSCC's IS Department entered a Business Plan competition to get funding to establish a social purpose enterprise. A Social Purpose Enterprise, in simple terms is a business that also focuses on social outcomes. In January 2009 we were one of three organizations that received funding from United Way's Toronto Enterprise Fund.

The funds will assist BSCC in its start up as a Social Purpose Enterprise, the goals of which are 1) to generate income for BSCC's programs and services, and 2) to assist immigrant and refugee women who are unemployed and under-employed to become self-employed Language Interpreters.

To achieve these goals, BSCC recruited and screened a number of women to participate in its training program. The training program (over 100 hours) provides them with the skills and competencies to become professional Language Interpreters, as well as small business owners. It is going to be completed in November, 2009.

Although the current economic environment is a challenge BSCC will focus on promoting and marketing its Interpreter Services to provide assignments to newly trained interpreters and other interpreters already on its roster. This is a new field that the IS department has ventured in and we hope you will spread the word. For information, you can contact Nora Angeles at 416-323-9149 ext 245. ✿

## Volunteer Corner

Our fundraising event of the year "The Tribute" had volunteers who helped, in our working committee, securing gifts in kind for our live and silent auction, they worked for several months prior to the event, participating in all the many and specific tasks required in this big project. This large number of volunteers gave us again their time and commitment to have this unique success. The Clinic extends a warm thank you to them:

*Maia Ono, Mary Carmen Chipoco, Mariela Chipoco, Julia Borowicz, Sasha Manes, Gisela Vanzahhi, Julia Del Carmen Sanchez, Raul Sanchez, Michelle Mohabir, Lilian Valverde, Nidhi Punyarathi, Ayya Sheptukhina, Gita Akhosh, Monica San Miguel, Mahta Pourgholamhossein, Mellisa Altro, Caryl Colton, Casey Krpan, Chris Higgins, Sue Edworthy, Susan Seran, Aishwarya Sapru, Adrienne Fung.* ✿



**Volunteers pictured above: Adrienne Fung ( left), Mellissa Altro (center), Julia Borowicz( right ) .**

## Self Esteem

Self esteem is a word, have heard it makes me mad, it make's me sad and also it makes me glad.

Self esteem you know what I mean, self-esteem you are like a dream, I never seen, self esteem don't try to be mean.

Self esteem to have you, have got to be strong, self esteem to hold you there is no wrong.

Self esteem, have to come with my terms with my past, self esteem one day, know you will last.

— By BSCC client



*Collage created by one of our Self-esteem group client at BSCC.*

## ARTICLE FOUR

# Determining Your Estate Planning Goals

This article is intended to provide an overview of Will and estate planning. It is important to stress that this is **NOT** a “Do-it-Yourself” guide. As the laws pertaining to estate planning and administration are ever changing, we strongly urge you to seek professional advice. This will ensure that your personal situation is considered in the context of your province’s estate and trust laws.

There are three basic steps to preparing your estate plan. Number one (listing your assets and liabilities) was covered in the last article.

1. Listing your assets and liabilities
2. Determining your estate planning goals
3. Preparing your Will

## YOUR LIFE – YOUR GOALS

Your estate planning goals will depend on a number of factors, including:

- Your age
- The ages of your family members and other beneficiaries
- The needs of your beneficiaries
- The current value of your estate
- Your beneficiaries’ ability to handle their own financial affairs
- Your tax situation

Prioritizing your goals before you meet with your professional advisor will help ensure your estate plan reflects your objectives and wishes. Every situation is unique. Most people have estate-planning goals that can be broken down into things they want to “achieve” and things they want to “avoid”. Some common goals are listed below:

### ACHIEVE:

- Maximize estate proceeds for your heirs
- Distribute assets in accordance with your wishes
- Provide for loved ones

- Ensure adequate liquidity in estate to pay taxes and any outstanding liabilities
- Ensure a proper guardian for underage children
- Leave a gift to one or more charitable organizations that you believe in and support

### AVOID:

- Needless taxation
- Family strife
- Delays in settling the estate
- Costly legal challenges
- Excessive probate fees charged by provincial courts
- Loss of control of family assets, such as a cottage property, farm or family business

You should list and prioritize your goals before meeting with your professional advisor. This will help ensure your estate plan reflects your wishes. ✿

*Disclaimer: The information contained in this article has been obtained from various sources believed to be reliable; however accuracy is not guaranteed. The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, its employees and agents assume no responsibility for errors, omissions or damages arising from this information. Readers are cautioned to consult their own professional advisors to determine the applicability of the information to their personal circumstances. This article is provided with the understanding that it does not render financial advice.*

For more information on our planned giving program, please call us at 416-323-9149, extension 237.

### NEXT Article: Preparing Your Will

For a free copy of a simple estate-planning tool called “Will Planning Guide – The Basics”, please call us at 416-323-9149, extension 237.

## Thanking Our Funding Partners

- Ministry of the Attorney General
  - Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
  - Ministry of Community and Social Services
  - Toronto Central LHIN
  - City of Toronto
  - United Way of Greater Toronto
  - Pacifica Fund at the Toronto Community Foundation
  - The Law Foundation of Ontario
- And numerous Foundations, Corporations, Community Groups and Individuals

## Leave Legacy of Caring

You may decide that you would like to include a gift to the Barbra Schlifer Clinic when preparing your Will or during your Estate Planning. These gifts are so important because they will help us to continue our work providing services for women victims of violence in the future and for the next generation. Consider one of the following ways of making a planned gift:

- A Bequest through a Will
- Assignment of Life Insurance
- Establish a Charitable Trust
- Gift Annuities
- Assignment of Securities

**For more information, please contact  
Meldina Smith at:  
[fundraising@schliferclinic.com](mailto:fundraising@schliferclinic.com)  
or 416-323-9149 Ext. 237**

## YOUR DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

Although the Clinic receives funding from our partners, we also greatly rely on the generosity of individual donors. If you wish to make a contribution in support of our Counselling, Interpretation and/or Legal Services for women survivors of violence, please send a cheque to the address below. Your donation, large or small, is vital to the operation of the Clinic and is sincerely appreciated. Charitable income tax receipts will be provided.

**Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic**  
**489 College Street, Suite 503**  
**Toronto, Ontario M6G 1A5**

You can also call us at (416) 323-9149 x 237 or e-mail us at: [fundraising@schliferclinic.com](mailto:fundraising@schliferclinic.com) with your Visa, MasterCard or Amex number, or donate on-line at [www.schliferclinic.com](http://www.schliferclinic.com)



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