

**SAVINO &
COMPANY**

BARRISTERS and SOLICITORS

340 ASSINIBOINE AVE.
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
R3C 0Y1

TELEPHONE: (204) 942-5131
FAX: (204) 942-3030

VIC SAVINO
BA., LL.B., LL.M. (Dalhousie)
(Also of the Saskatchewan
and Ontario Bar)

DENNIS VALDRON
B.A., B.Ed., LL.B. Associate

R. IAN HISTED
B.A. (Hons.), LL.B. Associate

JOSEPH ZUKEN, Q.C.
1912 - 1986 Counsel

April 1, 1997

Please reply to the
attention of:

Vic Savino

The Law Society of Manitoba
219 Kennedy Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1S8

ATTENTION: Brenda L. Silver
Assistant Director of Professional Education

Dear Brenda:

RE: The A. Montague Israels, Q.C. Prize - 1997
Application by P. Michael Jerch

I am pleased to place in nomination Peter Michael Jerch (Michael) for the A. Montague Israels, Q.C. Prize for 1997.

I have known Michael for several years. When he was a student, he spent a summer working for us and engaged in research and writing activities respecting Northern Flood Agreement claims and Aboriginal gaming.

I have now had the opportunity to observe Michael's work firsthand for over ten months.

As you know, I have supervised many articling students in my twenty years at the bar. Without question, Michael is the most outstanding student of all I have supervised.

Michael is married to a Cree woman from the Split Lake First Nation and has a very young son.

In addition to being an outstanding student and practitioner of the law, Michael is an

excellent and dedicated father and husband. He manages to balance his family activities, notwithstanding the tremendous number of hours that he puts in to his work and all the travel that is associated with it.

The hours that Michael puts in are remarkable. It reminds of the "good old days" when articling students were expected to put in however many hours it took to do the job. Michael does that of his own volition and I can say that my clients have benefitted greatly from his dedication.

Michael is a scholar of the law, he is always reading above and beyond what is required. Of course, with today's technology a lot of his reading comes off the Internet and, notwithstanding his "old style" work ethic, Michael is certainly a lawyer of the 1990's, completely computer literate, and uses these tools of technology to improve himself and benefit our clients.

Michael is a man of character, has the highest standards of morals, principles, and ethics, and at the same time is a very down-to-earth person.

For a lawyer, Michael is one of the best listeners that I have ever seen. That may be his most outstanding quality. He is always prepared to take the time to listen to a client's or colleague's concerns and then work through the problem with the other person.

Notwithstanding his outstanding character and qualities, Michael is a quiet, unassuming person that makes everyone he meets and/or talks to feel comfortable.

Although Michael's focus in his practice to date has been with respect to Aboriginal law and Aboriginal issues, his breadth of interest is much wider than that. Michael has served our clients well, be they big or small.

Not only has he done the Aboriginal work, but he has done a substantial amount of Legal Aid family law, criminal law, litigation, real estate, wills & estates, and corporate law.

Just recently, Michael completed two corporate & commercial transactions from start to finish with very little supervision by myself. He made sure that every detail was attended to and all I had to do was to review the material and sign it off.

Michael attended two years at Osgoode Hall and one year at Manitoba to obtain his law degree. His roots, however, are in Manitoba and he intends to be here for a long time.

He has travelled and worked throughout the North and has earned the respect and friendship of literally hundreds of people in remote, far-flung communities throughout Manitoba.

I have assigned extremely challenging work to Michael and he has always met the challenge. I can also say that he has always exceeded my expectations.

Based on my twenty years of practice of the law in Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, I would say that Michael is functioning at the level of at least a second or third year lawyer during his articling year.

It is my opinion that Michael will be an outstanding lawyer and an extremely giving member of the community.

In my opinion, Michael is a very worthy candidate for the A. Montague Israels, Q.C. Prize and I am sure that Mr. Israels would be proud to have his name associated with this outstanding young man.

Should you require any further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In the meantime, please find enclosed herewith my principal's reference form, which should be read in conjunction with this letter.

Yours very truly,

SAVINO & COMPANY

PER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vic Savino', written over a horizontal line.

VIC SAVINO

VS/cb/encl.