

# Long- distance

# Learning



*At far left, Rod Hayley and Ward Branch (seated) of Vancouver led an online CLE delivered live from Hayley's Mass Litigation course at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law.*

*À gauche de la photo, Rod Hayley et Ward Branch (assis) de Vancouver durant une FJP en ligne se tenant en direct lors d'un cours sur le litige à la Faculté de droit de l'Université de Victoria.*

*An online CLE on class actions represents another CBA milestone in delivering effective member service.*

## Apprentissage à distance

*Grâce à une nouvelle FJP en ligne, l'ABC franchit un autre jalon vers un meilleur service aux membres.*

**T**he CBA brought the classroom to the desktops of 66 lawyers across the country in September, with its live online CLE, "An Insider's Guide to Class Certification."

Ward Branch, author of *Class Actions in Canada*, and Lawson Lundell partner Rod Hayley, both of Vancouver, presented the seminar from the classroom of Hayley's Mass Litigation course at the University of Victoria. Lawyers from across the country connected through the Internet and telephone hook-up to watch and listen to a PowerPoint presentation and to e-mail their questions.

The greatest benefit of the online format, says Branch, was the number of questions they received. "It was far more interactive than a stand-up presentation," he says. "We probably got 30 or 40 questions during the course of our presentation, which would absolutely never occur in a face-to-face presentation.... People felt comfortable in their anonymity to ask pretty well anything they wanted to."

Beverly Froese of the Public Interest Law Centre at Legal Aid

**E**n septembre dernier, la salle de classe s'est transformée en écran d'ordinateur pour soixante-six juristes répartis à travers le pays alors que l'ABC présentait sa toute nouvelle FJP en ligne en matière de recours collectif.

Ward Branch, auteur d'un recueil sur le recours collectif au Canada et Rod Hayley, associé du cabinet Lawson Lundell, ont agité à titre de formateurs. Dans une salle de cours de l'Université de Victoria, les deux juristes de Vancouver ont partagé leurs connaissances avec une audience branchée au moyen d'Internet et d'un lien téléphonique. Chaque

Manitoba in Winnipeg, who participated in the online CLE, agrees that the presentation was very effective. "The speakers were excellent," she says. "Even though you were sitting in one place, and it's not the usual kind of atmosphere where you're seeing the presenters, it was still really effective. They really were able to hold your attention."

Fellow participant Christopher Foy, an associate with Vancouver's McGrady, Baugh & Whyte, found the content timely and relevant, since he's currently drafting pleadings for a class action. He also liked the balance of the presentation. "[Hayley] did an excellent job of making it an educational experience without taking a side, giving the best advice for both plaintiffs and defendants."

The seminar, says Hayley, "was intended to give our insights on tactical and strategic considerations with respect to the central issue of class actions, which is certification. Most class actions settle after the certification hearing, whether it's successful or unsuccessful... It's a very important part of the process."

Froese praised the online CLE format for allowing long-distance attendance on an important topic. "Unless you can attend a conference, you don't really get a chance to hear these people," she says. "I practise in Winnipeg and unfortunately don't get to go to a lot of conferences out of town."

Hayley agrees. "It was much more accessible to lawyers in smaller firms who may not have the time and resources to trek off to a major city," he says, commending the CBA for this initiative. ■ — Alison Arnot

participant avait accès en direct à une présentation *power point* sur son écran et était en mesure de transmettre toutes ses questions par courriel.

Les commentaires positifs foisonnent suite à cette expérience. "Les formateurs étaient excellents, déclare Beverly Froese de Winnipeg. Ils arrivaient à capter notre attention. » Pour Christopher Foy, de Vancouver, on doit aussi louer la qualité de l'information communiquée. « [Hayley ] a su montrer les deux côtés de la médaille et transmettre des conseils judicieux tant pour les juristes agissant en demande que pour ceux agissant en défense. »

Et tout cela sans compter l'aspect pratique inhérent à cette formation en ligne. « Cette formation est plus facile d'accès pour les juristes qui exercent au sein d'un petit cabinet et qui n'ont pas toujours le temps ou les ressources nécessaires pour bénéficier d'un tel type de conférences généralement offertes dans les grands centres », conclut Hayley. ■

— Mélanie Raymond