



Commemorative Magazine

KISSOON30

Celebrating Dhaman Kissoon's 30 Year Law Practice

March 1991 - March 2021

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Published by TMac Enterprises on behalf of Kissoon & Associates

**Celebrating 30 Years Of Legal Practice Success &
Outstanding Community Involvement!**



March 1991

March 2021

30th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine

Celebrating 30 Years
Of Legal Practice Success
&
Outstanding Community
Involvement

Produced by TMac
Publishing.

Graphic Design:
Preema Graphics

Publisher:
Tony McWatt

Publisher's Message:



Tony McWatt
Publisher

It has been an honour for me to have been granted the privilege of producing this Commemorative Magazine in celebration of Dhaman Kissoon's March 2021 30th Anniversary as an Ontario Barrister. So much so because of the fact that my personal association with Dhaman has been even longer. It has now actually been 38 years since our paths first crossed.

Dhaman and I first met in 1982 shortly after I had been appointed as the Ontario Cricket Association's (OCA) Executive Director. Dhaman was at that time serving as a member of the Toronto and District Cricket Association Board. He later became a lawyer and at one time represented the OCA.

In the years following my OCA departure my involvement as the Publisher of Caribbean Graphic, a Canadian Caribbean bi-weekly newspaper, also provided me with first-hand exposure to Dhaman's most enviable record of accomplishments as an outstanding supporter of community events and activities. The Annual Children's Christmas Party which Dhaman organized as Founder of the Advocates for Etobicoke Youth, was just one of the countless projects to which he contributed in his personal quest to make a positive impact in his community.

The Kissoon & Associates Annual Golf Tournament has since its 2000 introduction raised well in excess of a half a million dollars for contributions to the Sick Kids Hospital and other worthy charitable causes. It is yet another of Dhaman's community service projects that I was privileged to witness and publicize as Caribbean Graphic's Publisher.

I was also honoured to be among the 400 specially invited guests who were in attendance at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall to observe first hand Dhaman being presented with the 2017 Citizen of the Year at the Brampton Flower City Rotary Club's 12th Annual Gala. Just a week prior he had been knighted Chevalier de France during a Whitby Trafalgar Castle hosted ceremony.

Having been a direct witness to some of Dhaman Kissoon's exemplary community service accomplishments, it is again now my distinct pleasure to serve as the Publisher for this magazine commemorating the past thirty years of his outstanding Ontario legal career. Happy 30th Anniversary Dhaman. May you continue to thrive for many more years to come.



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

March 4, 2021

Dear Mr. Kissoon:

I would like to offer you my congratulations on your 30th anniversary of being call to the Ontario Bar.

The legal profession has greatly benefited from your candor, experience, and knowledge. As a lawyer for the past thirty years, you have fought to promote equality and justice for everyone while representing your clients with integrity and compassion. In addition to your esteemed legal career you have devoted your time to various community initiatives which have benefit so many individuals.

Over your many years teaching at Queen's University Faculty of Law you have gained the confidence and the admiration of your students. Your commitment to educating future lawyers has rightfully gained you numerous teaching awards. Thank you for all that you have done to inspire the next generation of legal minds.

Please accept my best wishes for your future endeavours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Justin Trudeau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Dhaman Kissoon



KISSOON30

CELEBRATING DHAMAN KISSOON'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY AS AN ONTARIO BARRISTER

March 2021

I am pleased to offer warm greetings to everyone celebrating Dhaman Kissoon's 30th Anniversary as a barrister in Ontario.

Members of the legal profession play an important role in protecting our rights, freedoms and institutions, safeguarding the common good, and ensuring a fair and just society.

Mr. Kissoon, I want to congratulate you on this significant milestone. With dedication and skill, you have represented clients in the areas of immigration and criminal law. You have also found time to give back to the Guyanese community, as well as the broader community, through charitable work. In addition, you have shared your knowledge and experience with the next generation of lawyers and legal professionals. You are a role model for your colleagues and a pillar of the community. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do.

Once again, congratulations on celebrating three decades of achievement and service.
Best wishes for your continued success.

Doug Ford
Premier



Message from the Mayor

It is a pleasure to extend congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon on the occasion of his 30th Anniversary as an Ontario Barrister.

This milestone anniversary is an opportunity to look back on Mr. Kissoon's impressive work in the field of criminal and immigration law. Thank you for your dedicated efforts in defending your clients over the past three decades.

Congratulations on starting your firm Kissoon and Associates in 2000, after a stint on Bay Street. Your practice has also helped many people in the areas of real estate law, family law, and corporate commercial law.

I also commend you for passing along your specialized knowledge to future lawyers, at Queen's University for the last 27 years.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I offer my best wishes on this significant anniversary and continued success.

Yours truly,

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

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Letter of Recognition for Dhaman Kissoon

I first met Dhaman Kissoon at the Toronto Police Headquarters in 1991. He was the Co-Chair of the South Asian Consultative Committee with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force. At the time, I was working in the Community Service Unit and Dhaman had just been called to the bar in Ontario.

At that time, I was quite impressed with his strong advocacy for causes such as employment equity and various discrimination issues.


In 2004, Dhaman and I became the Co-Chairs of the newly formed Advocates for Etobicoke Youth (also known as A.F.E.Y). Since its inception, AFEY has impacted the lives of more than 100,000 underprivileged kids in the North Etobicoke area. This organization has on a yearly basis organized youth conferences, thanksgiving luncheons, Christmas parties for children, as well as has awarded various scholarships. Dhaman has been actively involved in all of these events.

During this time, I have also personally witnessed Dhaman's personal development as a lawyer. He has handled many difficult cases with tact and immense skill. I understand that he is very successful in his practice, and that he consistently delivers desired results.

Dhaman has become a true community leader. The causes he advocated for in the early nineties he continues to fight for to this day. He has also become a teacher and a mentor for many students and young lawyers throughout his career.

It is for the aforementioned reasons, I offer my warmest congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon on his 30th anniversary as a member of the Ontario Bar.

Well done my friend.


Ron Taverner
Superintendent
12, 23, 31 Division
Toronto Police



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4 January 2021

Dhaman Kissoon
8 Beamish Drive
Toronto, ON
M9B 3P3

Dear Dhaman,

I am writing to offer my congratulations to you upon the 30th anniversary of your call to the Ontario Bar.

This is truly a wonderful milestone for you. This year marks not just the anniversary of an important achievement, but it provides us with a moment to reflect upon the contributions you have made to Canadian society in the intervening thirty years. Over the course of three decades, you have served your clients with skill and integrity. Through your legal practice, you have assisted vulnerable members of society to ensure that their rights have been protected and that the ideal of 'access to justice' is not just an ideal but a reality.

You have also dedicated yourself to community causes, leading various organizations, committees, and councils over the years that have served to further the interests of a just society – one that cares for the young, the sick, and the less-advantaged. You have reminded us of how together we can see ourselves as more than just a collection of individuals, but as a true community.

Finally, you have for thirty years been an educator. For three decades, law students at Queen's University have benefitted from your commitment to teaching, in particular your course "Racism and Canadian Legal Culture". In response, students have honoured you with the Law Students' Society/Ston Corbett Teaching Award on four occasions.

It is a great honour to mark this occasion with you – not just in my capacity as Dean of Law but as your fellow classmate from the Queen's law school class of 1989.

Thank you, Dhaman, for all that you have done to further our collective aspirations for a just society.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Walters
Professor and Dean of Law



Dr. Aubrey Zidenberg
B.A., LL.D
Chevalier de France

It is an honour to participate in recognizing and honouring Dhaman Kissoon's celebration of 30 years since his call to the Bar, giving him consent to practice law in the Province of Ontario.

I'm proud to call Dhaman a good friend and help others appreciate a part of his commitments and accomplishments.

I have appreciated his input and commitment as a long time member of the B'nai Brith Canada, Special Advisory Council to the League for Human Rights, which is made up of thirty recognized liaisons to the diverse multicultural communities that reflect the new face of Canada.

In addition Dhaman has been an active member of the York Regional Police Chiefs Advisory Council, ISCAC, which is the Integrated Strategic Community Advisory Council. ISCAC's function is to advise on strengthening the relationship between community and police, through work with all areas of the Major Crimes Divisions.

I am the founder and Chair of both of these advisory councils.

As a result of Dhaman Kissoon's ongoing commitment to his family, friends, profession, community and country, I had Dhaman knighted, Chevalier de France. He was a well deserved recipient of this honour!

"Friends are the family we choose for ourselves," and I am pleased to have been welcomed into the Kissoon family and to have opened the doors for him to our family.

Dr. Aubrey Zidenberg B.A., LL.D, Chevalier de France, Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Recipient.

Rotary

Club of Brampton Flower City Centennial



The Board and members of the Rotary Club of Brampton Flower City Centennial would like to express our warmest congratulations to Mr. Dhaman P. Kissoon on his achievement of 30 years as a member of the Bar in Ontario.

Mr. Kissoon is a founding member of our club. He held the position of President of our club twice, 2005 and again in 2015. He has also been the recipient of the Paul Harris in 2015 and the Paul Harris Plus 1 in 2016 awards for his significant contribution to Rotary. In 2017 Mr. Kissoon was presented with the prestigious Citizen of the Year by our club at our annual gala. This award was in recognition of his continued and dedicated service to the community service.

Needless to say, we are so pleased to witness your accomplishments. You are an inspiration to others. Your dedication to your work is exemplary. Thank you for making a difference.

Mr. Kissoon, we applaud you, and we wish you continued success in your years ahead.

Sincerely,

The Board and members of The Rotary Club of Brampton Flower City Centennial



HINDU FEDERATION

March 11, 2021

Dear Dhaman,

I am writing on behalf of the Hindu Federation to offer my congratulations to you upon the 30th anniversary of your call to the Ontario Bar.

This milestone complements all the wonderful work you have been doing for the Hindu Community over the past twenty-five Years.

In reflection we are reminded of your efforts to engage the youths in our community to understand and respect the Law through the many Seminars held at our various Temples over the years. Those events have been a major contribution to the nurturing of the value systems of many of our youths and certainly would have been responsible for the success stories of many in the Hindu community.

I take the liberty of expressing thanks to you on behalf of numerous youths who were influenced by your mentoring to join the Law profession and the many parents who are thankful for your guidance to their children as they struggled to choose a career path.

Your dedicated and tireless efforts have been exemplary, we are truly blessed to have you as a member of our community and pray that you will continue to serve your most honorable profession at different levels of Law and Justice in Canadian society.

Sincerely

Roopnauth Sharma
President

Hindu Federation, 270 Export Boulevard, Mississauga, Ontario, L5S 1Y9
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8 Beamish Drive
Toronto
ON M9B 3P3
February 18, 2021

Dear Mr. Dhaman Kissoon,


I wish to extend my warm congratulations to you for achieving your three decades milestone, since your call to the Bar of Ontario. As a Guyanese Canadian, not only have you shined in the legal realm, but you have also been an exceptional person working within our community. The acknowledgement of your contributions through being named Citizen of the Year by the Rotary Club of Brampton Flower City in 2017 and your work with Advocates for Etobicoke Youth, Toronto Sick Kids Foundation, Guyana Help the Kids, the Three Rivers Kids Foundation, the Latchmin and Sugrim Kissoon Scholarship Fund and the Pandit Sirju Persaud Scholarship Fund is being fully endorsed by the Consulate. You have rendered assistance to those in need, both in Guyana and Canada through your contributions and work with charitable organizations. I applaud you for being a strong pillar in the Guyanese community, while focusing on your professional development and family life over the years.

As we share in your celebration of this milestone here in Canada, I wish to encourage you to continue to be that role model for our younger generations and to continue also with the sterling contributions, which have made a positive impact on the lives of people in both Canada and Guyana.

Thank you on behalf of the Guyanese community and the beneficiaries of your kind gestures. I look forward to sharing in the celebrations of more milestones with you in the future.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,


Anyin Choo
Consul General

Beehive Boyhood:

Early Beginnings Of An Interest In Law.

On September 30, 1956, in the small village of Nootenuzil, otherwise known as Beehive and located on the East Coast of Demerara one of the then British Guyana three largest rivers, Sugrim Kissoon's wife Latchmin gave birth to her second child and their first son, Dhaman Persaud. Latchmin, whose occupation was listed as a domestic engineer and Sugrim, the manager of a neighbouring coconut estate, later became parents to five more children, Indranie, Krishna, Danny, Mitra and Nan. As the eldest of the seven, Anjanie and Dhaman as the first daughter and son respectively were, however, naturally the closest to their parents.



As a kid, the relatively comfortable lifestyle provided by his hard-working parents allowed Dhaman to freely pursue his interests and hobbies, of which books and cricket were the most favoured. As one of the Demerara East Coast's smaller villages, Beehive's community was extremely tight with most of its inhabitants being fairly well known to each other. That sense of cohesiveness also gave rise to a degree of competitiveness with the neighbouring villages, Clonbrook and Ann's Grove, which was often reflected in the inter-village cricket matches.

Having initially attended Ann's Grove Primary School, Dhaman was later enrolled at the Golden Grove Secondary School. It was at Golden Grove that Dhaman as a fifth-form student sat his London General Certificate of Education (GCE) O'Levels, impressively obtaining passing grades in seven subjects:



English; Maths; Commerce; Economics; Literature; Biology and Physics!

Dhaman's talents as a cricketer also gained him selection to the school's team for the nation-wide U19 Championships. Golden Grove was good enough to actually reach the finals before eventually losing to the Georgetown based Tutorial, led as it was by Mark Harper who subsequently became a Guyana National player. Interestingly enough Tutorials' path to the final had included an early-round victory over Guyana's' premier secondary school Queen's College, the roster of which had included an all-rounder named Tony McWatt.

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English; Maths; Commerce; Economics; Literature; Biology and Physics!

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After successfully completing his GCE O' Levels, Dhaman left his

Beehive village hometown in 1976, en route to Canada in pursuit of his post-secondary education. By then, having been a close hand witness to the thriving Guyana legal practice of his Uncle Jailal Kissoon who had studied law in London, England, Dhaman had already become convinced that his eventual career path would be the same. A conviction that had been further fueled by his demonstrated prowess in high school debates.

"In high school, I was winning debating competitions. I knew what I wanted to do and nothing was going to stop me." I participated in the National debate competition in Guyana. Our school came in third behind QC and one other!"

Jailal Kissoon proved himself to be the pioneer of the family's interest in law. An interest that eventually became so pervasive that there are now more than 20 lawyers in the Kissoon family worldwide, one of whom Dhaman's uncle Nandram is now a retired Court of Appeal Judge in Guyana. The most recent example of the Kissoon family's legal practice pursuits is actually Dhaman's own son Navin, who was called to the bar in June 2020.

Three years after his arrival in Canada, Dhaman Kissoon's educational studies were, however, brought to a standstill by the sudden and unexpected death of his

father Sugrim. The passing of his father as the Guyana based family breadwinner, resulted in Dhaman having to temporarily abandon his studies to obtain full-time employment as a means of fulfilling his responsibilities for the financial support of his mother and siblings.

The industriousness he had inherited from his parents, however, allowed Dhaman to eventually sponsor his entire family's immigration to Canada. It was indeed the very same family trait of industriousness that has ensured that each of his siblings have also subsequently done well for themselves and their respective families.

Heartiest congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon of Kissoon & Associates on the celebration of his March 2021 30th Anniversary as an Ontario Barrister.



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The Adjunct Professor

Upon graduating from Queen's Law in May of 1989, Dhaman Kissoon was asked by the Dean of the Faculty of Law to return to the law school, this time in the capacity as an adjunct professor. Working alongside with one of his colleagues from the Class of 1989, Ian Smith, now a leading appellate lawyer, the course "Racism and Canadian Legal Culture" was developed and offered for the first time in September 1990.

Racism and Canadian Legal Culture was one of the first courses of its kind offered in a Canadian law school. The course, which is still offered today, examines racism throughout Canadian legal history, he uses of law in particular moments of Canadian social history characterized by racism, racism in legal education (and education generally, racism in the legal profession and examines the manifestations of racism in Canadian legal doctrine and the Canadian system of justice. This course, in particular, focuses on racism in all aspects of Criminal Law.

Teaching this course since its inception, Dhaman has become an experienced voice on race related issues in the Canadian legal context. As a long serving adjunct professor in the at the law school with over 30 years of teaching experience, Dhaman has played a significant role in educating and developing a more diverse, tolerant and knowledgeable legal profession, particularly as it relates to issues of race.



For his efforts Dhaman has been awarded multiple Teaching Excellence awards including in 2002, 2009, and in 2015, The Law Students Teaching Excellence award. In 2018 he was presented with the Stanley Corbett Teaching Excellence award. This particular award has a special place on Dhaman's mantle. Stanley Corbett was a student of the course in the early 1990s. He later went on to become an Associate Dean at the law school before his untimely passing.

Beyond teaching, Dhaman has devoted much of his time to the law school in furtherance of creating a highly skilled and diverse legal profession. Dhaman has volunteered his time with the Black Law students' Association of Queens' Law, acted as a coach for the law school's Julius Alexander Issacs Moot Team – a mooting event attended by law schools around the country litigating diversity issues. He has also sat on various panels put on by the law school and law schools across Ontario discussing issues of race and diversity in the legal profession.

Throughout the course of his career, Dhaman's commitment to the bettering of the legal profession and his community is clearly evident. It is because of the efforts of individuals like Dhaman that we continue to get closer to our goal of a just and equitable society.



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**Terry Sawh, President of Topnotch Employment would like to
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Kissoon Law Practice

We are happy to join Dhaman Kissoon in celebrating his 30th anniversary at the Ontario Bar. His legal journey began by articling at a medium size firm from 1990 to 1991. At that time “The Sunday Shopping Case” was being heavily litigated. As an articling student Dhaman was given the task to appear on behalf of clients who were charged with Retail Business Act violations. This provided him with the opportunity to regularly visit many courthouses throughout Southern Ontario. While completing his articles during the day Dhaman spent his evenings at Night Court, as he was employed by the Metropolitan Toronto Legal department to prosecute By-Law offences. His experiences as an Articling student and as a prosecutor provided Dhaman with some the courtroom training which he continues to use in court on a daily basis.



After his call to the bar in 1991 Dhaman rejoined the firm as an associate lawyer. He was there from until 1992. He then made the decision to leave to start up a partnership in a two-person firm. This partnership ended in 1994. After that he continued to practice in association with two other lawyers for a number of years. In 2000 Dhaman was presented the opportunity to establish his own law firm. In its' prime Kissoon & Associates had six practicing lawyers covering all scopes of the legal field. Two of the lawyers from this office have since joined the Crown Attorneys office and one was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Throughout his practice Dhaman has developed expertise in Criminal law and Immigration law. He has made regular appearances at the Ontario Court of Justice representing clients on various Criminal charges. He has also made appearances at the Superior Court of Justice, the Federal Court, and at Immigration Tribunals.

While mastering his craft as a lawyer, Dhaman has also developed a passion for educating the next generation of lawyers. This is most clearly evident from his time teaching at Queen's University, Faculty of Law and from his participation in many Continuing Education panel discussions on various aspects of the law. In so doing Dhaman has shared many insights and knowledge that he has acquired over his years.

Dhaman is well respected by his peers and colleagues in the legal profession. This is evidenced by the fact that he is often consulted by many other lawyers for advice on the impact of criminal convictions in the scope of immigration matters. His expert opinions are often used by these lawyers to assist their clients in Criminal cases. In 2012 The Law Society of Ontario recognized that Dhaman Kissoon as a distinguished lawyer for a minority community.

By all accounts this has been an eventful and at the same time a successful journey.

Congratulations Dhaman!



DOUGLAS STRELSHIK LAW

*Heartiest congratulations to Dhaman
Kissoon of Kissoon & Associates
on the celebration of his March 2021
30th Anniversary as an Ontario
Barrister.*

Douglas Strelshik, B.A., LL.B.

DOUGLAS STRELSHIK LAW

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📍 250 Ferrand Drive Suite 1500 Toronto, ON M3C 3G8

The allrounder's love of the game.

When there were no television replays, a young Guyanese boy would huddle around the radio set to listen to a cricket match commentary to get a ring-side view of the game.

With the luxury of television replays being unavailable, the young boy would visualize the game with the commentary, whether it was a tricky dismissal or a ton.

Dhaman Kissoon was born in Guyana. Despite the political upheaval for very many within the free-spirited Guyanese population, cricket was their first love. Time was plenty, and unlike current times, cricket was not an expensive game, “all that the kids needed was a bat and a ball.”

A left-handed player is considered an asset in cricket as he has a sharp advantage over his opponent.

Young Kissoon was inspired by cricketers like Rohan Kanhai, Sir Garfield Sobers and others who inspired him to challenge common thought traps and create a clear sense of his goal.

With a single-minded focus, Kissoon excelled in sports and academics, which eventually made him one of Canada's most renowned lawyers, his current country of residence.



In the Under -19 school cricket in Guyana, Kissoon fetched the maximum runs, and between 1974-75, he played briefly with Gandhi Youth Sports Club.

At this juncture, when it was time for young Kissoon to embark upon cricket as a full-time career, he found his true calling elsewhere. So Kissoon decided to choose law over cricket and eventually turned out to be a leading law practitioner.

Kissoon migrated to Canada in 1976, but his love for cricket continued, and he immediately joined a club at Thorncliffe Park.

Even in amateur cricket, Kissoon excelled as an all-rounder. He scored 92 not out against Dovercourt and claimed five wickets as an off-spinner. Kissoon also had 142 not out in the Scarborough Softball league against a team called Rebels.

Though initially for recreational purposes, in 1979, Kissoon joined the Cavalier Sports club, in Toronto and District Cricket Association 4th Division.

Soon after joining T &D, the Cavaliers suffered a setback. The team captain resigned after playing four games, and Kissoon was the obvious choice to succeed him.

The situation was delicate, and the team morale was low. But Kissoon had the conviction to face the challenge. Under Kissoon's leadership, the talented team moved the club to the Third Division the following year. Kissoon continued to captain the club for several years. As the Cavalier grew over time, Kissoon's association with it became stronger. He was elected the President of Cavaliers Club and took it to the Premier Division and Woods Cup.

Kissoon also played with the Mississauga Ramblers and was a vital player of the Ontario Summer Games teams in 1981 and 1985. He also captained the Ontario cricket team in

Heartiest congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon of Kissoon & Associates on the celebration of his March 2021 30th Anniversary as an Ontario Barrister.



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the Ontario/Quebec Annual Game. As a law student in the UK, Kissoon played for the University of Kent and the village cricket in Canterbury. In the UK tea and cucumber sandwiches are quite common. This is often followed by a pint or two of the finest ale.

Kissoon has been highly successful in team environments dealing with people, but when it came to cricket administration, he realized that it was not easy to be innovative as there were too many “deal makers.” “These people, who in my view did not have the interest of cricket at heart, they were more concerned with their regions than Canadian cricket.”, recalls Kissoon about his tenure as

the Director of the Canadian Cricket Association.

A born winner, nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity, feels Kissoon. With the love of cricket intact in his heart, Kissoon believes that Canada has lost many opportunities. “In Canada, we have missed too many significant opportunities over the years. In 1989 I believe there was the first United Way Exhibitio Match at the Skydome, featuring the then world champions West Indies against a star studded Rest of the World XI. The match was sold out. All levels of government were on board. Instead of building on that momentum, infighting became a priority”.



Heartiest congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon of Kissoon & Associates on the celebration of his March 2021 30th Anniversary as an Ontario Barrister.

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Though not actively involved in cricket currently, Kissoon is one of the Maple Leaf Cricket Club's trustees.

Kissoon decided to be true to himself and listen to his voice. In his search, he found golf to be a wonderful metaphor for life where he is playing against none but himself, just like his idol Gary Sobers.

"It was in the country of my birth that I learned the value of giving back to the community," asserts Kissoon.

Kissoon's greatest source of happiness is to help others. The Kissoon Annual Charity Golf Tournament raises funds for those in need in Guyana, Canada and other parts of the world.

It is a strong sense of place and of a home that unifies the Guyanese population. A sportsman at heart, Kissoon concludes, "Old cricketers never die; they just run out."



Heartiest congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon of Kissoon & Associates on the celebration of his March 2021 30th Anniversary as an Ontario Barrister.



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Congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon on his 30th Anniversary as a successful Barrister and a great promoter of human welfare through his philanthropic efforts over the years.



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Over Three Decades of Outstanding Community Involvement! _____

Dhaman Kissoon's record of community involvement has been just as outstanding as it has been longstanding. Dhaman's list of community involvement which began in 1990 and is still continuing includes service with the Toronto Police, the Micro Skills Board, the Pickering Devi Temple, Sick Kids Hospital, Advocates for Etobicoke Youth and the Brampton City Rotary Club, among others!

Dhaman was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Brampton Flower City. The primary purpose of the

Brampton Flower City Rotary Club is to assist in humanitarian causes locally and internationally. The club through its various fundraising efforts has been able to assist in many causes in Canada and around the world. Over the years Dhaman has been very with the club and has been the President of the club on two occasions. He has been recognized for his outstanding efforts by Rotary with the Paul Harris and the Paul Harris I awards.

Dhaman also in 2004 co-founded Advocates for Etobicoke

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Youth (AFEY) with Ron Taverner of 23 Division of The Toronto Police Service. AFEY has been supported by the Police Service and many local businesses. Each year this organization assists and mentors more than one thousand underprivileged children from the North Etobicoke area of Toronto.



AFEY has also been instrumental in providing a forum for young people and law enforcement officials to have dialogues on matters of mutual interest. Judges, lawyers and other prominent business people are among those who have attended AFEY's Forums to provide guidance and mentorship to youth attendees.

AFEY's Annual Children's Christmas Party, host approximately 500 children accompanied by parents or guardians. Each child is presented with a wrapped toy from Santa, the attending children and their parents are also provided with a full meal and a food hamper to take home. Dhaman has been very active in this event as well as the annual Thanksgiving luncheon for seniors.

The indisputable impact Dhaman Kissoon has had on his community as a result of his numerous activities is, however, arguably most felt from his involvement with the Kissoon Charity Golf Tournament. This family-run tournament has raised about half a million dollars for various charitable causes. The organizations that were assisted over the years include the Toronto Sick Kids hospital; the Devi Hindu temple in Pickering; Guyana Help the Kids Foundation; the Three Rivers foundation among others;





The Annual Kissoon Charity Golf Tournament may also have been the catalyst for the development of a similar event. The Support Cancer Research Foundation Golf Tournament was started in 2013. Manny Clementino and Julio Santos have been supporters of the Kissoon Golf tournament over the years. The three had some discussions one evening about raising monies



Heartiest congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon of Kissoon & Associates on the celebration of his March 2021 30th Anniversary as an Ontario Barrister.



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for cancer research. The seed was planted for the first SCRF Golf Tournament.

A Committee was established and the tournament was held at the Royal Ontario golf course on September 21st. The three main organizers of the tournament were Manny Clementino (Hallmark Housekeeping Services); Julio Santos (Leao Douro Restaurant) and Dhaman Kissoon (Kissoon and Associates).

The SCRF tournament has continued over the years and has raised almost one million dollars for Princess Margaret Hospital and Camp Trillium. The funds donated

to Princess Margaret Hospital was used for cancer research.

In addition, Dhaman and his family members have donated personally thousands of dollars to other charitable causes such as student scholarships and the development of many religious organizations.

The foregoing snapshot of Dhaman Kissoon's community involvement during the past 30 years and counting should indeed serve to validate its provided description of having been as equally outstanding as it has been longstanding!

When asked why? The simple answer is we want to make the world a better place.

Warmest Congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon on achieving 30 years at the Ontario Bar.

Your sincere efforts deserve this success.
All the best for the future.

Sincerely,
Your dear friends at
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Dhaman Kissoon:

The Essence of Leadership

Pulitzer Prize Winner Dr. James MacGregor Burns advocated that transformational leadership occurs when leaders and followers raise one another to higher levels of motivation and morality.

“One of the most universal cravings of our time is a hunger for compelling and creative leadership.”

Leadership Transformational is moral but not moralistic, Burns noted. With goals and values both leader and the community are elevated to a more principled level of judgment, reminiscent of India's Gandhi.

Dhaman Kissoon is not only a law and business success story, a forward-looking visionary. His activities over the past thirty years have also brought to bear corporate

responsibility, as in giving back to the community.

Dhaman Kissoon's influence and experience extends from law school at Queen's University, where he is an educator, to the streets of Toronto where he tries to change the narrative with young people caught in the trap of gun violence and poverty.

And that reputation precedes him anywhere he goes. A quick internet search will return glowing tributes of the man and the lawyer. One person on the website lawyerratingz.com writes, “Mr. Kissoon is the most knowledgeable and reliable lawyer I have ever met. I have been to many other lawyers and they don't give you the time of day. Mr. Kissoon patiently listens



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to your problems and not only does he represent you he also advises you. He did my criminal case 2 years ago and I could not be happier. He is extremely efficient, professional and pleasant. ”

Yet another writes, “Mr. Kissoon is an amazing Professional. He is indeed a very knowledgeable and reliable Lawyer who delivers what he promises within his given timeframe. In addition, he is a very pleasant, compassionate and understanding person who is never about money. In fact, he completed my case without me ever feeling pressured about money. He advised me on several issues and I could not be happier with the results.”

He is also a teacher, an Adjunct Professor in Racism & Canadian Legal Culture at the Queen’s University Faculty of Law since 1990 where his wealth of experience has been shared with many a grateful student.

Dhaman Kissoon has received numerous awards for his work in the wider Toronto community.



Among his awards for community service are:

- 1998: Metropolitan Toronto Police Service Community award.
- 2004: Paul Harris Award from Rotary International
- 2006: City of Pickering award for community Service
- 2008: Pranav Cultural Centre community award
- 2009: Vedic Cultural Centre award
- 2012: Ontario Government Volunteer Service award
- 2016: Paul Harris Plus 1 award from Rotary International
- 2016: Guyana 50th Independence anniversary award for Community service
- 2016 York Regional Police Service Community Service award
- 2016 Inducted a member of the Chevalier Du France for community service
- 2017 Citizen of the Year award presented by the Rotary Club of Brampton Flower city

He has also won a number of teaching and professional awards, including 2002; 2009; 2015 and 2018 Teaching excellence awards at the Queen’s Faculty of Law; and he has been recognized as a Distinguished Lawyer from a Minority community by the Law Society of Ontario.

At the end of the day, Dhaman Kissoon has become living proof of the old adage that it is the community that makes the man. In his case, however, he has returned the favour, making the community even stronger by merely being in it. Never one to shy away, Kissoon steps up to the fore every time

he is called upon, and speaks to meaningful change to minority youth at every opportunity he gets.

He has come a long way.

Acknowledgements

Many to Thank and Much to Be Grateful For!



I have been blessed and tremendously rewarded in my role as a lawyer in Canada. This publication tries to map out the roads traveled over the last 30 years. There were many individuals who were very supportive and who have made significant contributions during this journey. Each of their contributions made my travels so much more eventful. I must take this time recognize them.

My siblings and I are blessed to still have our mom, Latchmin Kissoon, in our lives. She is loving, kind and generous. After our father's untimely death her role became so much more significant. Her courage, strength and determination has been the guiding light for her children. Our respective successes have solely been as a result of our mom. We thank you dearly.

To my dear wife, Sultana and children Mala and Navin, I thank each of you for your longstanding support. You have each put up with my many absences, but I know that you have understood my call of duty and my determination to make a difference. As the saying goes no man is an island. I could not have traveled this road without your full support.

Heartiest congratulations to Dhaman Kissoon of Kissoon & Associates on the celebration of his March 2021 30th Anniversary as an Ontario Barrister.



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I have six sisters and brothers. Each one is very dear to me. All of our struggles and our successes have been jointed and shared. I thank each one of you for your tremendous support over the years. We are like the fingers on a hand. Each of us there to serve but with a different purpose. Without one of us the hand is substantially weakened. Let us continue to keep the hand strong.



To all my extended family members your immeasurable contributions from childhood until now have not gone unnoticed. Each one of you had a hand in my personal development as an individual and/or the molding of my future. Regardless of what your respective contributions may have been, I thank you all the same.

Over the years I have been blessed with many valued friends. Each of you have enriched my life. Your contributions to my many causes have been tremendous and encouraging. The journey is not complete. There are still many hills to climb and miles to travel.

The staff and lawyers at Kissoon and Associates, past and present, each of you have contributed immensely to the firm's success over the years. I thank each and every one of you for all your efforts.

To all of my colleagues in the legal community, be it a judge; a Crown; a defense lawyer or another lawyer, each of your friendships and guidance over the years have made a significant difference in my legal career. I thank each and everyone one of you.

The members of the Rotary club of Brampton Flowercity and the members of Advocates for Etobicoke Youth you have collectively tried to make the world a better place. While we have indeed accomplished a lot neither the mission nor the job is as yet complete. We have to continue on. I thank you all in assisting to make a difference.

There many contributors of articles in this publication. Each of you have taken the time to research to write your piece.

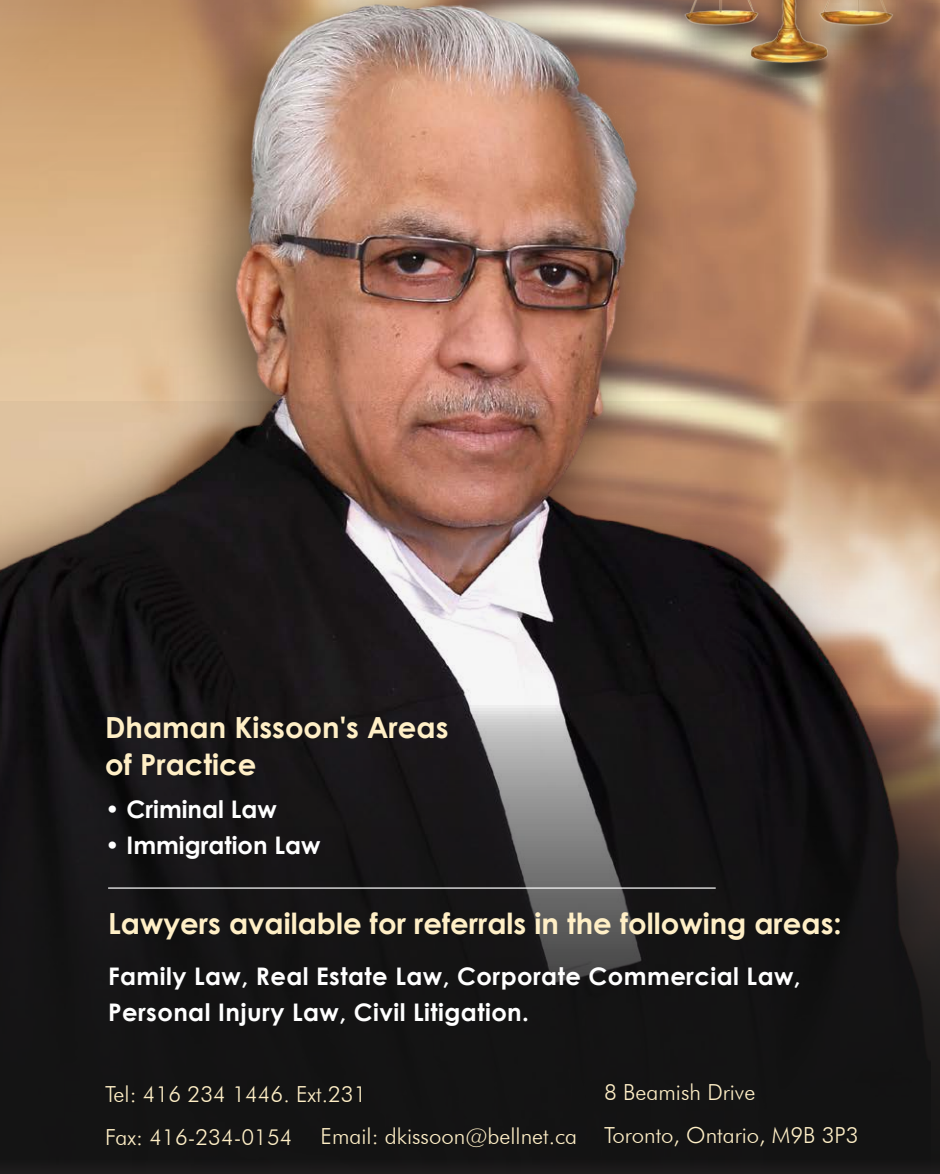
A decision was made not to identify anyone as some have requested to remain unnamed. Having said that let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone. Without your contributions this publication would have been incomplete.

Last but not least the publisher of this commemorative booklet, Tony McWatt. He has for put up with my many revisions and changes. He was a true professional through the entire process in the production of this publication. Thanks, Tony, for all your efforts and this final product.

Hoping the journey continues into decade number four!

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