

HURLEY, Pat

In the Hurley family law is a trademark

Intell April 11/91, Bel - Gray - H

By Tom Gavey
The Intelligencer

Pat Hurley saw growing up how much his father enjoyed law and that made the decision to become a lawyer an easy one.

His father is Justice Ben Hurley of the Ontario Court (General Division). Sister Joanne practises in Picton and another sister, Mary Jane, is a court reporter in Toronto.

The 31-year-old Belleville native returned here last week to join the firm of Butler and Graydon.



"Looking at how much my father enjoyed the law and having that kind of experience growing up made the decision easy. I had always hoped I could come back to Belleville to practise," he says.

Hurley graduated from Nicholson Catholic College in 1979 and then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queen's University in 1982. He graduated from the University of Toronto Law School in 1987 and was called to the Ontario Bar in 1987.

He started with the firm Campbell, Godfrey and Lewtas in Toronto and remained when the firm merged in November, 1989

to become one of the largest firms in the province.

"I was involved mainly in labor and employment law there as well as some commercial litigation. Things are becoming so specialized in Toronto there are some lawyers who just do airplane leasing," says Hurley.

That wasn't what he wanted, and April 2 Hurley joined the city firm. He says he will assist Robert Graydon with his criminal practice and work in civil litigation.

"It was good to get the experience in Toronto. But here I'll get a chance to really help people. In Toronto it seemed you were always dealing with a bunch of people in blue suits," says Hurley.

Graydon says his firm, which is litigation based, will be able to use Hurley's experience in civil and criminal litigation.

"He's coming from a distinguished Toronto firm and that experience should serve him well. It also continues our tradition here of litigators with a local background," says Graydon.

Hurley says for his part he's looking forward to coming from a firm where there were 270 lawyers to one where he will have a greater impact on the work being done.

"The problems here won't just be about accounting. And, it's an opportunity to work with Bob (Graydon) in criminal litigation," he says.

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