

## **IMPERIAL CIVIL COURT OF 3/14/04**

### **re: Who does an estates vote “belong” to?**

A civil court was convened at the March 14, 2004 Imperial Estates Meeting to address the following issue:

1. Does a vote belong to an estate, or a person who holds that estate?

#### **In attendance**

- Sir William Baine for Sir Nikolai Belski, Petitioner
- HIM Wright Bentwood, presenting the “estates” position
- HIM Aislynne de Chartier, presenting the “person” position
- Imperial Estates

#### **For the Court**

- Dame Maedb Hawkins (Scribe for the Court)
- Sir Karl von Katzburg, Imperial Chancellor (Rulings and Conflicts)
- Sir William Baine, Imperial Chancellor

#### **Judges**

- HRM Sir Terrin Greyphis, King of Esperance (Presiding Judge)
- HRM Kendra McFadyn, Queen of Terre Neuve
- HRM Etaine Llyelyn, Queen of Castilles

#### **Decision Of The Court**

The law exists to protect. It has evolved from focusing on protecting the individual, to protecting the estate. The main bylaw in question (article VI.E.4) uses the term “member,” which introduces an ambiguity open to interpretation. Initially, the interpretation applied to the individual, and protected the individual’s right to vote. Over the past several years of rulings and Imperial practice, the interpretation has become a “member of the body,” and protects the estate’s right to representation. We find that the law does not preclude this interpretation. Thus, estates are frozen at the calling of an estates meeting, while its representative may lawfully change before the actual meeting.

Signed:

Sir Terrin Greyphis, Esperance Rex, Dame Kendra McFadyen, Queen of Terre Neuve, Dame Etaine Llyelyn, Queen of Castilles