

Banack's Bencher News

#100

Made it!

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BENCHER ELECTION: Below you will find the names of the 40 newly elected Benchers, 15 of whom will be sitting in Convocation for the first time. Three incumbent Benchers were not re-elected. Detailed election results are posted on the Law Society website <http://www.lsuc.on.ca>

Toronto			
Rothstein, Linda	Pawlitza, Laurie H.	Anand, Raj	Schabas, Paul. B.
Porter, Julian	Sandler, Mark J.	Matheson, Wendy	Minor, Janet E.
Falconer, Julian N.	Gold, Alan D.	Bredt, Christopher D.	Leiper, Janet
Campion, John A.	Murchie, Barbara	Symes, Beth	McDowell, William C.
Mercer, Malcolm M.	Callaghan, John E.	Dickson, Mary Louise	Goldblatt, Howard
Outside Toronto			
Evans, Robert F.	Sullivan, Joseph J.	MacLean, M. Virginia	Doyle, Adriana
Braithwaite, Jack	Pustina, Nicholas John	Lerner, Michael M.	Backhouse, Constance
Conway, Thomas G.	McGrath, Susan T.	Wadden, Robert	Hartman, Carol
Halajian, Jennifer A.	Hare, Susan M.	Richer, Susan Armatage	Scarfone, James A.
Silverstein, Alan G.	Horvat, Jacqueline	Eustace, Larry	Potter, Judith M.

WOMEN BENCHERS: 18 of the 40 elected Benchers this term are women. That compares with 19 elected in 2007 and 11 elected in 2003.

TREASURER ELECTION: A Treasurer Election will be held in June Convocation. It is anticipated that Treasurer Pawlitza will be re-elected for a second one-year term. In that event, a vacancy will be created in the Toronto area to be filled by the Toronto candidate receiving the next highest number of votes.

Unfortunately, the voter turnout was only marginally better than in the past. Congratulations go to all the candidates who sought election in what is a very difficult process. Thank you for offering to serve the Profession.

Thank You

As a result of governance reforms and provincial legislation which I strongly supported, a 12 year term limit was implemented for elected Benchers. Accordingly, I was unable to be a candidate in the recent election. I will however have the opportunity and look forward to continuing my participation in the work of the Law Society as a Life Bencher.

During my 16 years as an elected Bencher, I maintained communication with the Profession since 1995 through 100 issues of this Bencher Newsletter. I hope they served a useful purpose.

I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the province and meet with many outstanding members of our Profession who act for all types of clients from large corporations to individuals in stressful family, criminal and transactional situations. I also had the chance to speak with countless students and lawyers facing personal, professional or Law Society challenges sometimes needing no more than a supportive conversation. I remain today as I was 16 years ago enormously proud to count myself and now two of my children as members of this Profession. The years that I served as an elected Bencher have been very rewarding. Although onerous and troubling at times, I must confess that having the opportunity to work with such a talented group of Bencher colleagues and dedicated Law Society staff has enriched me in many respects. I am also grateful for the privilege which enabled me the opportunity to Chair the Law Foundation of Ontario and currently the Law Commission of Ontario.

I thank those of you who supported my four consecutive re-election efforts. In particular, my partners and colleagues at Koskie Minsky LLP have been very generous in every respect related to my involvement as a Bencher. I also acknowledge the many years of support from my assistant Lynn Pipher who devoted enormous effort, often after traditional working hours, in respect of my Bencher responsibilities and this newsletter. Of course, and certainly not last nor least, I thank my wife, Arna and our children, Adam, Hailey and Mara who made it possible for me to fulfill my Bencher obligations. I wish the newly elected Convocation great success in confronting the numerous challenges facing our Profession. I have had a great run as an elected Bencher and have been blessed in many ways for which I am grateful. I wish for each of you years of good health to enjoy all that life has to offer.

AND AN EXTRA THANK YOU

LARRY