

Banack's BENCHER NEWS

#101

Volume 5

Who was I fooling? I could not stop at 100! I'd like to introduce you to a new look.

May 26, 2011

Issue 1 **Based on positive feedback, I am going to maintain this newsletter which I hope will continue to be helpful as a timely summary and link to Law Society activities.**

PETER WARDLE: Peter Wardle has been elected by Convocation to fill the vacancy of a Bencher from the Toronto Region as Laurie Pawlitza is the Treasurer.

LAY BENCHERS: The Attorney General has appointed as Lay Benchers for the forthcoming term:

Marion Boyd, Seymour Epstein, Dow Marmur, Jack Rabinovitch, Baljit Sikand, Catherine Strosberg and Jan Richardson.

Lay Benchers play an enormously important role of providing input by a non-lawyer into the regulatory affairs of the Profession.



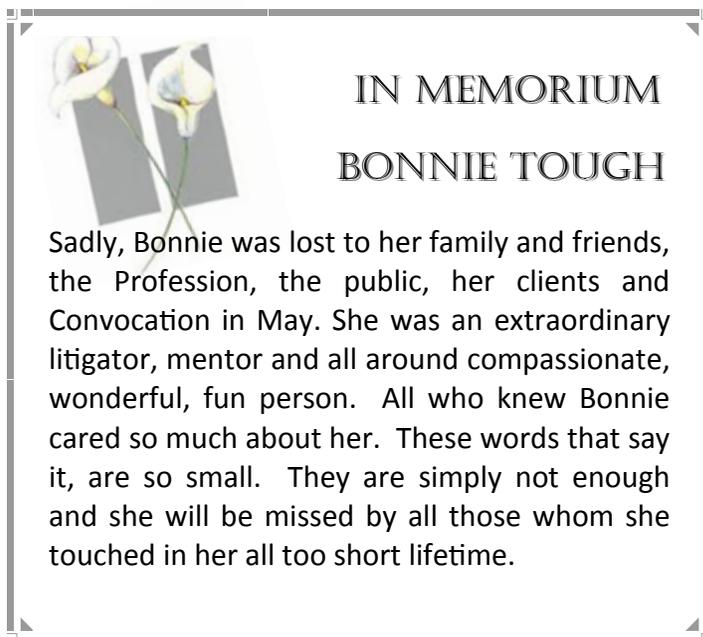
Look forward to important decisions about the articling system possibly failing or requiring an extreme makeover. The number of applicants entering our licensing program and seeking articles has increased dramatically. From 2008 to 2011, the number of students unable to secure articles doubled from almost 6% to 12%. The vast majority of student placements are in Metro Toronto large firms. The current system is not sustainable.

What are the alternatives?

RETENTION OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE PRACTICE: A ground breaking report has been tabled by a Working Group including significant recommendations which will be considered as part of the Law Society's overall strategic planning discussion in the Fall 2011.

Examine the report at <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2147485106> and make your views known to Benchers.

DIVERSIFYING THE BAR-LAWYERS MAKE HISTORY: The Heritage Committee has since 2003 pursued the stories of the legal profession in Ontario. The history of well-known members and the unsung efforts of sole and small firm practitioners who have served the public in large cities, small towns and rural communities can be accessed at: <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/diversifying-the-bar-lawyers-make-history/>



LAWPRO: The LawPro 2010 Annual Report is now available at www.lawpro.ca. Lawpro will no longer automatically mail out pre-populated renewal application forms to Ontario lawyers. You should note in your calendar in early October, you will be able to e-file your 2012 renewal application form.

Please note these key LawPro 2011 dates:

- JULY 31:** Transaction levies and forms due
- SEPT. 15:** CPD credit filing deadline
- OCT. 31:** Transaction levies and forms due
- NOV 1:** E-filing renewal application discount deadline
- NOV 8:** Renewal insurance coverage filing deadline

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Another poorly attended "ho-hum" gathering that took place on May 11th. But for Law Society employees dragooned into attendance, there may not have been a quorum. The Treasurer's Report highlighted the events of the past year and financial statements were formally presented. I invite you to attend next year, for the most interesting part of the meeting which was the reception following.

LARRY

CONVOCATION REPORTS: All reports to Convocation can be viewed at <http://www.lsuc.on.ca>. In order to more fully understand the issues facing Convocation, you may wish to review previous editions of Banack's Bencher News at <http://www.kmlaw.ca/publications>

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