

# Banack's BENCHER NEWS

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## **LAWPRO 2012:** This is a good news story.

Base premiums for the coming year will remain unchanged at \$3,350.00. The premium for the Real Estate Practice Coverage Option will be reduced to \$250.00 (from \$400.00). The premium discount will be increased, for those in part time practice and those with restricted areas of practice.

In addition, the discount for new lawyers in practice less than four full years has been adjusted to assist those new practitioners.

**BENCHER PLANNING SESSION:** Benchers will spend 2½ days identifying priorities for the next four years. This intensive, dedicated attention to the work of the Law Society is imperative for Benchers to map out the work to be undertaken at the Law Society, including issues related to governance and the discipline process.

**CEO REPLACEMENT:** Amrop Knightsbridge was given the mandate to conduct a search to replace Malcolm Heins, who is retiring from his position effective January

1, 2012. It is anticipated that the search will soon be completed and a Bencher Committee will make a recommendation to Convocation later this Fall.

**ARTICLING TASK FORCE:** The Task Force met a number of times during the course of the Summer. It has identified challenges facing the current program which includes the increasing number of unplaced candidates. As well, consideration has been given to the competency related principles, that articling is intended to address and whether it is effective in doing so. Discussions have been undertaken to examine the various options available to achieve the goals of articling, and how to best engage the profession, law schools and the Federation of Law Societies in considering the alternatives. This is an enormously important effort which will ultimately affect the licensing process overall.

**LAW SOCIETY 2012 BUDGET:** The Finance Committee has been considering budget alternatives and submissions throughout the Summer. Deliberations will continue during this month and at the forthcoming Bencher Planning Session. It is anticipated that a draft budget will be approved by the Finance Committee in October and available for approval by Convocation in November.

## **IN MEMORIAM: RANDALL SCOTT ECHLIN**

Randy achieved the pinnacle of his professional success with his appointment to the Superior Court of Justice, following an illustrious career as a practitioner and author. The public and profession lost an invaluable contributor to our society on August 12, 2011. The personal and professional contributions of Mr. Justice Echlin will be an enduring legacy to him and a comfort to his family.

*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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