

Banack's BENCHER NEWS

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DEADLINE — NOT TO BE MISSED!



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT: December 31, 2011 is the deadline by which lawyers must report their CPD hours through the Law Society Portal.

All lawyers are now required to complete at least 12 hours of CPD in eligible, educational activities which must include a minimum of 3 hours on topics related to professional responsibility, ethics and/or practice management.

IF A LAWYER DOES NOT COMPLETE AND RECORD THE REQUIRED CPD HOURS BY THE DEADLINE, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW.

For more information, refer to:
<http://rc.lsuc.on.ca/jsp/cpd/index.jsp>

For a list of eligible courses offered by the Law Society, see the Ontario Reports (November 18, 2011) or review the calendar at: <http://ecom.lsuc.on.ca/cpd/calendar.jsp>

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

This 2005 legislation was enacted to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Customer Service Standards adopted under the Act are effective on January 1, 2012 for providers of goods and services, including law firms. The Law Society has created a guide which is meant to assist legal service providers in developing the resources to comply with the Standards. The guide and suggestions for compliance with the Standards can be viewed at the Law Society website at www.lsuc.on.ca. This is an obligation imposed by the Province that must be observed to respect those with disabilities and avoid unfortunate consequences.

BENCHER GERALD SWAYE: The Hamilton Law Association recognized Mr. Swaye's significant, long-term contribution to the profession, by awarding him the prestigious Emilius Irving Award.

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: www.lsuc.on.ca/diversifying-the-bar-lawyers-make-history.

TREASURER'S HONORARIUM:

Convocation has approved an increase in the Treasurer's Honorarium commencing in May 2012 from \$118,000 to \$175,000 to be adjusted annually for changes in the Ontario Consumers Price Index. This reflects the reality that the Treasurer's job has evolved to be a full-time position, with few hours available for private practice.

LAW SOCIETY MEDAL: This is the highest honour which is given by the Law Society. Nominations will be open until January 25, 2012. For details, review announcements in the Ontario Reports or the Law Society website: www.lsuc.on.ca.

LAW SOCIETY 2012 LEVY: The annual fee has been increased to \$1,826.00 (from \$1,785.00 in 2011) for lawyers. The fee increase would have been greater except for the allocation of \$5.3 million from accumulated surplus accounts. The increased annual fees for lawyers and paralegals will generate additional Law Society revenue of \$2.7 million to be used to fund operations. The most significant additional expenses relate to Professional Regulation (\$2.8 million) due to an increase in the number of complaints and additional resources required to process discipline matters; and Professional Development and Competence (\$1.1 million) for additional staff related to the implementation of the new Continuing Professional Development requirements. For detail of the entire approved budget, please see: www.lsuc.on.ca.

LIBRARYCO BUDGET: The Law Society budget included a levy of \$203.00 per lawyer to fund the operations of Library-Co. The Law Foundation continues to be a significant source of funds to address the cost of electronic library resources. There continues to be the unresolved, thorny issue of access to funded libraries by members of the public and paralegal licensees of the Law Society.

PARENTAL LEAVE ASSISTANCE PLAN: This three-year pilot project was commenced in March 2009. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$750.00 per week for twelve weeks to cover expenses associated with maintaining a practice during a maternity, parental or adoption leave. As of September 30, 2011, \$321,000 had been expended in comparison with \$371,000 for the same period last year.

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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