

Banack's BENCHER NEWS

#107

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DEADLINE — NOT TO BE MISSED!



ANNUAL REPORT: This is a reminder that your 2011 annual report, which is due March 31, 2012, must be accessed and e-filed by visiting the Law Society portal: <https://portal.lsuc.on.ca>

THESE WILL NOT BE MAILED

Questions about the annual report can be directed to bylawadmin@lsuc.on.ca or by calling By-Law Administration Services at 416-947-3315 or 1-800-668-7380 (Ext. 3315).

ARTICLING - MARCH 15, 2012: Final date for written comments in respect of the Law Society Consultation Report seeking input concerning the issues relating to the articling component of the lawyer licensing process.

C.P.D. COMPLIANCE: Law Society members were required to satisfy the 2011 continuing education requirements by December 31st. As of January 17, 2012, 1831 members had not completed the requirement and were to be notified in advance of the mandatory suspension process. As of February 23, 2012, 951 members have not complied with 2011 obligations (776 of those are lawyers and 175 are paralegals. Members not in compliance have been sent letters and coached as to the availability of free programs in order to achieve the necessary educational requirements. In the event of continuing default, the suspension process will be implemented.

MORTGAGE FRAUD PROSECUTIONS: Since 2001, the Law Society has completed 69 mortgage fraud cases. In more than half, the lawyers were disbarred or had their licenses revoked. The other half were either permitted to resign, surrender the license

or were suspended, with one exception. There are 48 mortgage fraud cases currently in the discipline process. Mortgage fraud cases take longer to process than other complaints because of the complexity of the factual circumstances, the seriousness of the allegations and the complexity of the issues.

COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION COMMISSIONER:

Convocation has reappointed Mr. Stindar K. Lal as Commissioner for a further 2 year term. The Commissioner provides an independent review of Law Society decisions to take no further action in respect of a complaint. 248 files reviewed in 2011 predominantly considered issues relating to service, integrity and conflicts. As a result of the review, 12 files were sent back to the Law Society with a recommendation for further action. Of the 12 decisions referred back to the Director, Professional Regulation, further action was taken on 8 of the recommendations. These statistics are consistent with the results in 2009 and 2010.

THE ARTICLING TASK FORCE has the remaining sessions to attend which run from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.:

- **Barrie** Holiday Inn Barrie Hotel/Conference Centre
February 27, 2012 20 Fairview Road
rsvp Barrie@lsuc.on.ca Barrie
- **Hamilton** Sheraton Hotel
February 28, 2012 116 King Street West
rsvp Hamilton@lsuc.on.ca Hamilton
- **Ottawa** Delta Ottawa City Centre
February 29, 2012 101 Lyon Street
rsvp Ottawa@lsuc.on.ca Ottawa
- **Kingston** Radisson Hotel Kingston Waterfront
March 5, 2012 1 Johnson Street
rsvp Kingston@lsuc.on.ca Kingston

CONVOCATION IS SCHEDULED TO DEBATE THIS CRITICAL ISSUE ON MAY 25, 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND THE LAW SOCIETY PUBLIC EDUCATION, EQUALITY AND RULE OF LAW SERIES:
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY—March 7
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY—April 17
ACCESS AWARENESS-LEGAL SYMPOSIUM ON DISABILITY ISSUES—June 6
LA JOURNEE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE—March 20
ASIAN/SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE—May 17
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HISTORY—June 19

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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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